

New Organs



Wicks Organ Company, Highland, Illinois Bethel Lutheran Church, Rochester, Minnesota

On a pleasant evening in July 2007, five members of Bethel Lutheran Church climbed into a van for a trip to Highland, Illinois. It was the next step in a process that had been going on for years. We had a dream: ever since our new worship space was being designed, we dreamed of filling it with music. Now the Wicks Organ Company—currently building their 6400th organ—had a unique proposal for us. In 1964 Wicks had built their 4400th instrument for themselves, to showcase their work to prospective customers. They had built a climate-controlled room for it, and maintained and updated it ever since.

In Highland we met with representatives of Wicks who told us about their company and Opus 4400. We listened as Dale Mundahl, our principal organist, sat down at the console. We heard the beautiful tones and the awe-inspiring low notes that our temporary organ could not produce. We delighted in the variety of different tone colors available; quintessential pipe organ, sweet strings, melancholy flutes, vibrant reeds, stirring brass and majestic festival trumpets, even a set of chimes. It sounded fantastic and looked stunning.

So what was the unique opportunity? Well, this instrument had a list of pipes very similar to that of our hoped-for ideal, with all the features we had dreamed of—and this meticulously maintained and updated organ, with a replacement

value of \$1.2 million, was being offered to Bethel for less than half of that. In January 2008 the people of Bethel approved a proposal to purchase it.

Then came the day when our new instrument was delivered. Twenty-five members of Bethel joined the Wicks staff in unloading the two trucks. Three hours later our narthex and several other areas were covered with all the pieces that make up Opus 4400—what an interesting, informative, and enjoyable labor of love. Throughout the installation process we were impressed with the willingness of the Wicks personnel to include us and answer questions.

After a process of tonal finishing and final adjustments, the space above our choir has been filled with a magnificent instrument that will be a blessing to our worship for present and future generations of Bethel—well worth an extended road trip in a rented van.

—Gary G. Thorn

Minister of Music & Worship

GREAT (unenclosed)

16'	Quintaton	61 pipes
8'	Prinzpal	61 pipes
8'	Gedeckt	61 pipes
4'	Prestant	61 pipes
4'	Waldflöte	61 pipes
2'	Oktave	61 pipes
II	Tertian	122 pipes
III	Mixtur	183 pipes
8'	Trompette en Chamade	61 pipes
8'	Krummhorn	Pos
	Chimes	

SWELL (enclosed)

8'	Rohrflöte	61 pipes
8'	Salicional	61 pipes
8'	Voix Celeste TC	49 pipes
4'	Spitz Prinzpal	61 pipes
4'	Koppelflöte	61 pipes
2 2/3'	Nazard	61 pipes
2'	Hohlflöte	61 pipes
1'	Flautino	61 pipes
III	Scharff	183 pipes
16'	Posaune	12 pipes
16'	Bassoon	61 pipes
8'	Trumpet	61 pipes
8'	Oboe	digital
4'	Rohrschalmei	61 pipes
	Tremolo	

CHOIR (enclosed)

8'	Geigen Principal	61 pipes
8'	Gemshorn	61 pipes
8'	Erzähler	61 pipes
8'	Erzähler Celeste TC	49 pipes
8'	Viola	61 pipes
8'	Viola Celeste	61 pipes
4'	Gemshorn	12 pipes
2'	Harmonic Flute	61 pipes
II	Rauschpfeife	122 pipes
8'	Clarinet	61 pipes
4'	Hautbois	61 pipes
8'	Trompette en Chamade	Gt
	Tremolo	

POSITIV (unenclosed)

8'	Holzgedeckt	61 pipes
4'	Spillpfeife	61 pipes
2'	Flachflöte	61 pipes
1 1/2'	Quint	61 pipes
1'	Nachthorn	61 pipes
II	Sesquialtera	110 pipes
III	Klingende Cymbel	183 pipes
16'	Krummhorn	61 pipes
8'	Holzregal	61 pipes
	Cymbelstern	

PEDAL (unenclosed)

32'	Bordun	digital
32'	Violone	digital
16'	Kontra Bass	32 pipes
16'	Bordun	32 pipes
16'	Quintaton	Gt
8'	Prinzpalbass	32 pipes
8'	Gedeckt	32 pipes
8'	Gemshorn	Ch
4'	Choralbass	32 pipes
4'	Copula	12 pipes
2'	Oktavbass	12 pipes
III	Mixture	96 pipes
32'	Contra Bombarde	digital
32'	Sordun	32 pipes
16'	Bombarde	32 pipes
16'	Posaune	Sw
16'	Bassoon	Sw
8'	Trumpet	12 pipes
4'	Cromorne	Pos
8'	Trompette en Chamade	Gt
	Chimes	

65 stops, 59 ranks



Nichols & Simpson, Inc., Organ-builders, Little Rock, Arkansas West Side Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood, New Jersey

The journey towards a Nichols & Simpson pipe organ for West Side Presbyterian Church began in 1999, when a contract was signed for an instrument to replace the church's Austin organ, reusing many pipes from the existing instrument. On January 8, 2002, the church was totally destroyed by fire. In the ensuing months, friends and fans of West Side Presbyterian watched in amazement as this courageous and faith-filled congregation made the decision to rebuild. Nichols & Simpson, Inc. was chosen to build the pipe organ for the new worship space.

The West Side Presbyterian organ is unique in many ways. Its striking visual appearance was designed by the church's architect, Herbert S. Newman and Partners, PC, and the unusual cylindrical case pipes were constructed by A. R. Schopp's Sons, Inc. The case was designed by Frank Friemel and executed by QLF Custom Pipe Organ Components, LLC.

The chest actions are electric-slider with pneumatic-cylinder stop actions and electro-pneumatic/electro-mechanical actions for unit and duplexed stops. The swell boxes are two inches thick, with hollow shades featuring sound-trap joint construction. Shade movement is controlled by 12-stage pneumatic-cylinder whiffletree swell engines.

The moveable console is constructed of mahogany finished to match the interior of the church, and features an interior of burl eucalyptus, bone natural keys with rosewood sharp keys, rosewood expression and crescendo shoes, rosewood drawknobs with bone faces, rosewood thumb pistons with bone faces, and bone tilting tablets to operate the intermanual couplers. The organ utilizes a Peterson ICS 4000 control system and incorporates 256 levels of memory.

The instrument was dedicated on Sunday, October 9, 2007, during a recital by Dr. Catherine Rodland, daughter of Joanne Rodland, the church's director of music, and the late John Rodland.

—C. Joseph Nichols

Photo credit: David C. Scribner

Nichols & Simpson, Inc., West Side Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood, New Jersey 48 stops, 59 ranks

GREAT

16'	Double Geigen
8'	Principal
8'	Geigen (extension)
8'	Harmonic Flute (expressive)
8'	Bourdon (expressive)
8'	Gamba (expressive)
4'	Octave
4'	Nachthorn (expressive)
2 2/3'	Twelfth
2'	Fifteenth
1 3/4'	Seventeenth
IV-V	Fourniture
8'	Harmonic Trumpet (expressive)
8'	Cromorne (expressive, preparation)
4+8'	Clairon (expressive)
	Tremolo
8'	Tuba (expressive)
	Chimes

SWELL

16'	Bourdon
8'	Diapason
8'	Chimney Flute
8'	Salicional
8'	Voix Celeste
8'	Flauto Dolce
8'	Flute Celeste GG
4'	Principal
4'	Flute Octaviane
2 2/3'	Nasard
2'	Octavin
1 3/4'	Tierce
1 1/2'	Larigot
IV-V	Plein Jeu
16'	Double Trumpet
8'	Trompette
8'	Hautbois
8'	Vox Humana
4+8'	Clarion
	Tremolo
8'	Tuba (Great)

CHOIR

16'	Erzähler (extension, preparation)
8'	Geigen Diapason
8'	Bourdon
8'	Erzähler
8'	Erzähler Celeste GG
4'	Octave
4'	Koppelflöte
2'	Flautino
IV	Mixture
8'	English Horn
8'	Clarinet
	Tremolo
8'	Tuba (Great)
	Cymbelstern
16'	Trombone (Pedal)
8'	Tromba (Pedal)
4'	Tromba Clarion (Pedal)

ANTIPHONAL

8'	Principal (console preparation)
8'	Gedeckt (console preparation)
4'	Octave (console preparation)
8'	Trompette (console preparation)

ANTIPHONAL PEDAL

16'	Gedeckt (console preparation)
-----	-------------------------------

PEDAL

32'	Contra Bourdon (extension)
16'	Open Wood
16'	Subbass
16'	Double Geigen (Great)
16'	Bourdon (Swell)
16'	Erzähler (Choir)
8'	Gross Flute (extension Open Wood)
8'	Octave
8'	Geigen (Great)
8'	Gross Bourdon (extension Subbass)
8'	Bourdon (Swell)
8'	Erzähler (Choir)
4'	Choral Bass
4'	Gross Flute (extension Open Wood)
IV	Mixture (preparation)
32'	Ophicleide (extension)
16'	Trombone
16'	Double Trumpet (Swell)
8'	Trumpet
8'	Tuba (Great)
4'	Clarion (extension Trumpet 8')
	Chimes