

New Organs



Nichols & Simpson, Inc., Organ-builders, Little Rock, Arkansas
First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Michigan
4 manuals, 50 stops, 64 ranks

The Nichols & Simpson organ for First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Michigan replaces a Casavant organ that was built in 1953. The three-manual Casavant was installed in one chamber on the side of the chancel. The Nichols & Simpson organ has 50 stops and 64 ranks of pipes, of which 12 stops or portions thereof from the Casavant are incorporated into the new organ. The pipes of the main divisions of the organ are on pallet-and-slider windchests. Larger pedal pipes and duplexed stops are on individual valve windchests.

The church interior was completely redesigned architecturally by Constantine George Pappas Architects of Troy, Michigan, and acoustically by Scott R. Riedel & Associates of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The chancel width was opened up, and most of the organ is across the front of

the chancel, fronted by new casework designed by Frank Friemel. The Swell division together with some Pedal basses are located in the original organ chamber, which was made shallower.

The new four-manual console is constructed of American cherry and features manual keys with coverings of bone and rosewood. The drawknobs are of rosewood with bone faces inset for engraving. The tilting tablets are of bone. The five expression shoes are solid rosewood. The wind pressures for the organ range from 4 inches for the Great division to 6 inches for the Solo division, with the separately enclosed Tuba stop on a wind pressure of 15 inches.

—C. Joseph Nichols

Photo credit: David C. Scribner

GREAT

- 16′ Violone (ext 8′ Violone)
- 8′ Principal
- 8′ Solo Flute (Solo)
- 8′ Harmonic Flute
- 8′ Violone

- 8′ Bourdon
- 4′ Octave
- 4′ Nachthorn
- 2½′ Twelfth
- 2′ Fifteenth
- 1½′ Seventeenth
- IV–V Fourniture
- 8′ Harmonic Trumpet
- Tremolo
- 16′ Trombone (Pedal)
- 8′ Tromba (Pedal)
- 8′ Tuba (Choir)
- 4′ Tromba Clarion (Pedal)

SWELL

- 16′ Lieblisch (ext 8′ Chimney Flute)
- 8′ Diapason
- 8′ Chimney Flute
- 8′ Salicional
- 8′ Voix Celeste
- 8′ Flauto Dolce
- 8′ Flute Celeste
- 4′ Principal
- 4′ Flute Octavante
- 2½′ Nasard
- 2′ Octavin
- 1½′ Tierce
- III Plein Jeu
- III Petit Plein Jeu

- 16′ Double Trumpet (ext 8′ Trumpet)
- 8′ Trompette
- 8′ Trumpet
- 8′ Hautbois
- 8′ Vox Humana
- 4′ Clarion (ext 8′ Trumpet)
- Tremolo
- 8′ Tuba (Choir)

CHOIR

- 16′ Double Dulciana (1–12°) (ext)
- 8′ Geigen Diapason
- 8′ Geigen Celeste°
- 8′ Bourdon
- 8′ Dulciana
- 8′ Celeste (1–12°)
- 4′ Principal
- 4′ Koppelflote
- 2′ Flautino
- 1½′ Larigot
- IV Chorus Mixture
- 16′ Bass Clarinet (1–12°) (ext)
- 8′ Petite Trompette
- 8′ Clarinet
- Harp°
- Celesta°
- Tremolo
- 8′ Tromba (Pedal)
- 16′ Tuba TC
- 8′ Tuba

SOLO

- 16′ Contra Gamba (ext 8′ Gamba)
- 8′ Solo Flute
- 8′ Gamba
- 8′ Gamba Celeste
- 4′ Solo Flute (ext 8′ Solo Flute)
- 8′ French Horn
- 8′ Clarinet (Choir)
- 8′ English Horn
- Tremolo
- Harp (Choir)
- Celesta (Choir)
- 16′ Tuba TC (Choir)
- 16′ Trombone (Pedal)
- 8′ Tuba (Choir)
- 8′ Tromba (Pedal)
- 4′ Tromba Clarion (Pedal)

PEDAL

- 32′ Contra Violone°
- 32′ Contra Bourdon°
- 16′ Open Wood (ext 8′ Solo Flute)
- 16′ Principal (ext Great 8′ Principal)
- 16′ Subbass
- 16′ Violone (Great)
- 16′ Lieblisch (Swell)
- 16′ Double Dulciana (Choir)
- 8′ Solo Flute (Solo)
- 8′ Octave
- 8′ Bourdon (ext 16′ Subbass)
- 8′ Violone (Great)
- 8′ Chimney Flute (Swell)
- 8′ Dulciana (Choir)
- 4′ Solo Flute (Solo)
- 4′ Choral Bass
- 2′ Solo Flute (Solo)
- IV Mixture
- 32′ Ophicleide°
- 16′ Trombone
- 16′ Double Trumpet (Swell)
- 16′ Bass Clarinet (1–12°)
- 8′ Tuba (Choir)
- 8′ Tromba (ext 16′ Trombone)
- 8′ Trumpet (Swell)
- 4′ Tromba (ext 16′ Trombone)
- 4′ Clarinet (Choir)

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