Scottish Chamber Organ

The resurrection of a John Renton organ

By Thomas R. Thomas

rare instance of a Scottish chamber A rare instance of a occurrence occurrence of a occurrence occurrenc Renton of Edinburgh, has found new life in the home of Thomas R. Thomas in Deering, New Hampshire.

Initial research suggested that the instrument may have been built for Fingass Castle around 1860-70 and moved to a church in Halkirk in the 1930s. According to the Scottish organ historian Alan Buchan, vandals broke into the church in the 1970s and smashed most of the pipework. An American organ builder purchased the organ in 1996 and had it crated and sent to Maine, with the intention of rebuilding it for a local church. The project seems to have been beyond his capabilities and he sent it to a local auction house in Concord, New Hampshire, where it was bought by Thom Thomas. The organ case, chest and some mechanism parts were in Thomas's barn for several years before he assembled the case.

Jeremy Cooper, a local organ builder, was enthralled with the elegance of the case and convinced Thomas he could restore the chest, fabricate action parts, and bring the organ back to life. The chest and other parts were moved to Cooper's shop and the case sent to a local furniture maker to be restored. Stopknobs matching a few remaining ones were fabricated in England and engraved in the original nomenclature. The keydesk was given to a craftsman in Vermont to replace two missing keys, recover naturals, rebush, and adjust. A new reservoir was fabricated by \check{J} eremy Cooper, and pipes from several 19th-century New England organ builders were racked on the chest. The mahogany and gilt trim case, mechanics, and



Inner workings

pipes came together at the end of the summer of 2013, and the organ once again speaks from John Renton's magnificent casework.

Height 11′ 3″ Depth 2' 9" Width 5′ 3″ 300 pipes Self-contained Laukhuff .25 hp blower



Right Jamb





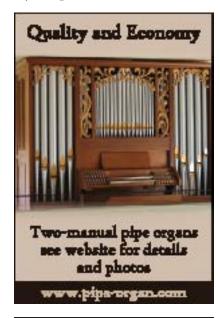
Left jamb



Finished product

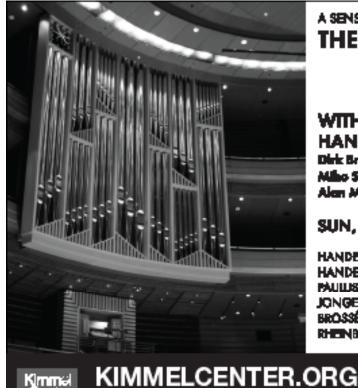


Right jamb



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SUN, JAN 19 • 2:30PM • VERIZON HALL

HANDEL: Alexandro: Overture, HWY 21 HANDEL: Organ Concerto la 9 minor, Op. 4, No. 1 PAULUS: Concerto for Organ, Strings and Percusion JONGEN: Hyenna, Op. 78 BROSSE Block, White and in Between

RHEINBEILGER: Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Op. 177

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