

New Organs



Dobson Pipe Organ Builders, Lake City, Iowa St. David's Episcopal Church, Wayne, Pennsylvania

Faced with rapid growth in the late 1990s, St. David's Episcopal Church in Wayne, Pennsylvania planned to replace a worship space erected in 1956. That building had been constructed in response to the post-war population surge in this mainline Episcopal parish, whose congregants for the prior 241 years had worshipped in a small stone church built in 1715. Founded by Welsh colonists, the congregation and its stone church were immortalized in 1880 by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in his poem, "Old St. David's at Radnor," a stanza of which reads,

It is not the wall of stone without
That makes the building small or great,
But the soul's light shining round about,
And the faith that overcometh doubt,
And the love that stronger is than hate.

The new chapel, so named to mark this edifice as, despite its greater size, the spiritual offshoot of the still-standing historic church, was designed by Atkin, Olshin, Lawson-Bell (now Atkin, Olshin, Schade) of Philadelphia. Seating 585, the chapel is the newest gathering point for a congregation that has long valued music.

From the beginning of the construction planning process, it was determined that a pipe organ and acoustics supportive of singing would be significant features of the new chapel. Under the leadership of Dr. Joseph Bonn and organ consultant Jonathan Ambrosino, St. David's organ committee undertook an extensive search that ultimately resulted in the decision to commission a new instrument from Dobson Pipe Organ Builders of Lake City, Iowa, the firm's Op. 84.

Standing at the front of the worship space, the new organ, like the chapel itself, draws architectural inspiration from



the 1715 church across the street. Built of oak and lightly painted white, the organ case's simple lines are enriched by gilded carvings. The layout of the organ is straightforward, with location of the divisions within the case corresponding to the arrangement of the keyboards. The largest pipes of the Pedal stand on the floor behind the organ. The Choir division, played from the lowest manual keyboard, is located behind the latticework grille. The Great, played from the second manual keyboard, is located behind the tall groups of pipes at the outside of the case; some of the smaller Pedal pipes are also located with the Great. The Swell is placed behind the upper group of pipes just below the window.

The organ generally employs mechanical key action for all divisions, with electric action being used for the largest Pedal pipes. A multilevel combination action is also provided. The console, built of black cherry with a mahogany interior, is detached from the main case to provide two rows of choir seating. Most of the organ's 2,751 pipes are made of alloys of tin and lead, with tin content ranging from 12% to 75%. The largest pipes, and some smaller ones as well, are made of wood, specifically yellow poplar, hard maple and black walnut. Wind is supplied by a blower located in the undercroft, and regulated by large weighted reservoirs in the base of the case.

The organ was dedicated in a festival worship service on September 23, 2007, during which St. David's choir sang Par-

ry's "I Was Glad." It was followed by a dedication recital given that afternoon by David Higgs of the Eastman School of Music. Subsequent dedication series programs have been presented by Dr. Clair Rozier, director of music at St. David's; Dr. Robert Gallagher, associate director of music; and Ann Elise Smoot, a daughter of the parish and now a concert organist and teacher in London.

—John A. Panning
Dobson Pipe Organ Builders

Photographs courtesy Wm. T. Van Pelt

GREAT (II)

16'	Principal	61 pipes
8'	Principal	61 pipes
8'	Hohl Flute	61 pipes
8'	Gamba	61 pipes
4'	Octave	61 pipes
4'	Spire Flute	61 pipes
2½'	Twelfth	61 pipes
2'	Fifteenth	61 pipes
1½'	Seventeenth	61 pipes
2'	Mixture IV	244 pipes
8'	Trumpet	61 pipes
4'	Clarion	61 pipes
	Swell to Great	
	Choir to Great	

SWELL (III, enclosed)

8'	Diapason	61 pipes
8'	Bourdon	61 pipes
8'	Viola	61 pipes
8'	Voix Celeste (CC)	61 pipes
4'	Octave	61 pipes
4'	Harmonic Flute	61 pipes
2½'	Nasard	61 pipes
2'	Piccolo	61 pipes
1½'	Tierce	61 pipes
2'	Mixture III	183 pipes
16'	Bassoon	61 pipes
8'	Trumpet	61 pipes
8'	Oboe	61 pipes
4'	Clarion	61 pipes
	Tremulant	

CHOIR (I, enclosed)

16'	Bourdon	61 pipes
8'	Salicional	61 pipes
8'	Gemshorn	61 pipes
8'	Unda Maris (GG)	54 pipes
8'	Lieblich Gedeckt	61 pipes
4'	Fugara	61 pipes
4'	Recorder	61 pipes
2'	Flageolet	61 pipes
8'	Trumpet	61 pipes
8'	Clarinet	61 pipes
8'	Vox Humana	61 pipes
	Tremulant	
	Swell to Choir	

PEDAL

32'	Contra Bourdon	32 pipes
16'	Principal (Gt)	
16'	Violone	32 pipes
16'	Subbass (ext 32')	12 pipes
16'	Bourdon (Ch)	
8'	Octave	32 pipes
8'	Violoncello (ext Violone)	12 pipes
8'	Gedeckt (ext 32')	12 pipes
4'	Choralbass	32 pipes
16'	Trombone	32 pipes
8'	Trumpet (Gt)	
4'	Clarion (Gt)	
	Great to Pedal	
	Swell to Pedal	
	Choir to Pedal	

42 voices, 49 stops, 47 ranks, 2,751 pipes

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