

Hilbus Chapter

The Organ Historical Society, Inc.

Where the Tracker Action Is!

www.hilbus.org



Volume 36

Number 7

March 2007

Whole No. 329

Saturday, March 24, 2007

Three Organs in Northern Virginia

[THANKS TO TED GUSTIN FOR ARRANGING THIS DAY!]

9:45 AM

Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington

4444 Arlington Boulevard

Arlington, VA 22204

2 manual (electric action) and pedal, 28ranks

Holtkamp, 1963

Organist: Robert Griffith

Directions:

The church is located on the SW corner of the intersection of Arlington Boulevard (Rte. 50) and George Mason Drive, with entrance to the church parking lot from George Mason.

From Washington - Take the Roosevelt Bridge to Route 50 West; drive c. 3 miles. Go past the exit for Glebe Road; look for the George Mason Drive exit on the right. Take that exit; at the light turn left onto George Mason Drive (crossing Rte. 50). Get in the right lane and turn into the church's parking lot after the light.

From the Beltway - Take Route 50 (Arlington Blvd.) east towards DC. Exit at George Mason Drive on the right; at the light turn right onto George Mason; the church is immediately on the right.

[crawl information continued next page]

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Articles and news may be submitted to the Editor electronically: music.director@gracealex.org

Dues due in October: \$14, mailed to Secretary-Treasurer (Checks payable to Hilbus Chapter, OHS)

11:00 AM

All Saints' Episcopal Church (Sharon Chapel)

3421 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA 22310
2 manual tracker and pedal
Hook & Hastings
Organist: Heddie Rothfuss

Directions:

From Unitarian Universalist Church, turn right (south) onto George Mason Drive for 2.2 miles.
Turn left (east) onto SR-7 (Leesburg Pike) for 3.9 miles. (Name changes to King Street)
Turn right (south) onto Callahan Drive for 0.2 miles (at the Amtrak Station).
Bear right (west) onto SR-326 (Duke Street) for 0.2 miles.
Take the ramp onto SR-241 (Telegraph Road) for 1.1 miles toward the Beltway (going under it).
Turn right (west) onto SR-644 (Franconia Road) for 0.4 miles.
The driveway up to the church is on the left.

12:00 NOON

Lunch at The Atlantis (Italian & Greek)

3672 King Street, Alexandria, VA

Directions from All Saints':

(You will be retracing part of your drive)
From the church, turn right (east) onto Franconia to the light.
Turn left (north) onto Telegraph Road, crossing under the Beltway.
Take the ramp (right) onto Duke Street (SR-236), towards Old Town Alexandria.
Turn left onto Callahan Drive for 0.2 mile.
Turn left onto King Street (SR-7) for 2.1 miles.
The Atlantis is in the Bradlee Shopping Center on the left.

1:30 PM

Trinity United Methodist Church

2911 Cameron Mills Road
Alexandria, VA 22302
2 manual and pedal (electric action - slider chests), 32 ranks
Holtkamp, 1998
Organist: Linda Calligaro

Directions from Atlantis:

Turn right (southeast) onto King Street (SR-7).
Turn left onto Quaker Lane at the light, 0.2 mile.
Turn right onto Fern Street for one block.
Turn left onto Kenwood Avenue for 0.5 mile (Kenwood becomes Allison Street).
Turn right onto Cameron Mills Road to the church.



Review of the February Crawl

submitted by Carl Schwartz

A cool crisp, sunny, winter day was the setting for our February crawl in Georgetown.

Christ the King Anglican Church is home to a robust one manual and pedal organ built for the church in 2000 by Wahl Organbuilders of Appleton, Wisconsin. It occupies a remarkably small footprint in the gallery of this small building. Richard Roeckelein, Music Director of the church, demonstrated the organ for us with selections by Clérambault, Walther, and Hindemith. The stops are divided and the musical selections reflected the possibilities inherent in this aspect of the organ. The foundations have a full singing tone and the cheerful 4' Octave works well with several combinations of the 8' ranks. The ensemble is capped by a 2' and a 2 2/3' Quint bass/Sesquialtera II treble. This effectively provides a Mixture II-III when all is drawn. The result is a very rich and powerful plenum; one gets the impression of a much larger instrument. The Tierce in the treble provides a reedy tang to the ensemble and is quite wonderful in effect. The balance among the stops is such that it is also possible to build up the organ, or decrescendo fairly smoothly – desirable in service playing and often an elusive quality of an instrument with no stops under expression.



Wahl Organ at Christ the King Anglican



Wahl Organ keydesk

MANUAL 58 notes (all stops divided b/c')

8' Principal

8' Bourdon

8' Dulciana

4' Octave

2' Octave

3' Quint (bass)/II Sesquialtera (treble)

PEDAL 30 notes

16' Subbass

Epiphany Roman Catholic Church houses Opus 1623 (1894), 2 manual and pedal Hook and Hastings organ installed in that church recently by David Storey; David hosted our group at the church. This is a very typical small Hook and Hastings in most details. Originally the organ was built as a studio instrument for the music room of B. J. Lang, noted Boston music teacher. Swell to Great 16' and 4' couplers were added to a standard model; this is unusual for the date of the organ. In 1906 the organ was sold to Blessed Sacrament Church in Fall River, Massachusetts and was relocated when the church closed. It was rebuilt in 1961 by the Welte-Whalon Company of Portsmouth, RI. Graham Down found the organ for sale and determined it

was appropriate for Epiphany. The church purchased the organ and David Storey removed it to his Baltimore workshop, restored it, refinished the case, supplied a new blower, completed the Oboe 8' of the Swell to full compass, had the façade stenciled by Betsy Greene of Baltimore, and erected the organ in Epiphany in 2003 where it is known as the A. Graham Down Organ. The case is quarter sawn oak. The organ has the refined but normal tone one expects of a Hook and Hastings organ. Overall, though, it is gentle in effect, perhaps because of its origin as a studio organ. The 8' Diapason has narrow mouths appropriate to its original setting, but not necessarily in an organ built for a large church such as the one in Fall River. The organ is well suited to its present home and replaces the former organ, a Hinners tracker. One finds that organs of the “twilight period” of Hook and Hastings (c. 1895-c. 1910) are understated and refined. Much like a fine wine, they do not overwhelm the senses but rather reveal their charms gradually and with subtlety. This is one of those instruments.

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GREAT 58 notes	SWELL 58 notes	PEDAL 30 notes
8' Open Diapason	8' Stopped Diapason	16' Subbass
8' Melodia	8' Unison Bass	
8' Unison Bass	8' Viola (TC)	<i>Tremulant</i>
8' Salicional (TC)	4' Harmonic Flute	
4' Principal	8' Oboe	

Swell to Great Sub, Unison, Super couplers
Great to Pedal
Swell to Pedal



Hook & Hastings keydesk



Hook façade



David Storey at the Hook console

Following a quick lunch we trekked on to Georgetown Presbyterian Church, home to Aeolian-Skinner Opus 1306 installed in 1959 (contracted for in 1956). This organ was presided over by William (Bill) Watkins, AAGO, for nearly half a century and was designed for his use. Bill, a student of Virgil Fox, was a noted performer and teacher and is fondly remembered for his kindness towards all who came to know him.

The original organ has been added to several times. Aeolian-Skinner provided a 32' extension to the Contra Hautbois in the 1960's, placing this under expression in the Swell. Some years later the Cannarsa Organ Company made further additions to the organ: a Swell Mixture, a second high-pitched Great Mixture, an Enclosed Great Cromorne 8', and a snappy Trumpet Militaire now renamed the Watkins Trumpet. In the 1970's Austin provided a second, moveable console for use on the main floor of the sanctuary. Michael Hart (DiGennaro-Hart Organ Company) is the curator of this organ and has renovated it. Part of that work entailed rebuilding the original console with solid state equipment and installing new stop jambs and a coupler rail in the original style but bringing the later additions fully under the control of the player. At that time two digital 32' flue stops and digital percussions were added to the organ.

Several aspects of the organ are worth noting. First of all the Great is based on a mild 8' Spitz Prinzpal (a narrow 48 scale AND tapered!) This is a signature feature of organs designed by Joseph Whiteford and much criticized then and now. Another seemingly odd feature is the location of the 8' Nason Gedeckt and 2' Lieblich Prinzpal of the Great on chests located at the Gallery railing in the manner of a Rückpositiv Organ. This may have been inspired by similar exposed stops at First Presbyterian Church in Kilgore, Texas, an organ on which Bill Watkins

[continued next page]

recorded for the Aeolian-Skinner series. These two stops are utterly charming in effect and can indeed be played off against the rest of the organ in dialogue! Further, by means of separate couplers these stops can be made playable on either manual.

What does the organ sound like? John Lintner, Music Director of the church and our host played “Choral” by Joseph Jongen for us, demonstrating the smooth crescendo



Georgetown Presbyterian Skinner

of the organ from soft Flute Celestes to full organ. To my ear the famous Aeolian-Skinner “musical line” was evident in the clarity of the voices, especially the Pedal. In this piece the feet have a canon with the topmost voice and the voicing of the registers enhanced this aspect of the music sublimely. The registers of the organ are typical of the builder—elegant, colorful and charming. The later additions are complimentary certainly, but with the added Mixtures the ear hunts for support at the 8’ level that is just not there. One gets the impression that the original balances were carefully set up to be just right. This is a splendid small Aeolian-Skinner and very much a part of the musical history of the region.

GREAT	SWELL	PEDAL	COUPLER RAIL
16' Quintade	8' Rohr Flute	32' Contra Violon [digital]	8' Gt. Nason Flute on Ped.
8' Spitz Prinzipal	8' Viola Pomposa	32' Contra Bourdon [digital]	2' Gt. Lieb. Principal on Ped.
8' Nason Flute	8' Viola Celeste	16' Contra Viola	
8' Gedackt (enc.)	4' Spitz Flote	16' Bourdon [digital]	8' Gt. Nason Flute on Sw.
8' Flauto Dolce (enc.)	2 2/3' Nasat	16' Lieblich Gedackt	2' Gt. Lieb. Principal on Sw.
8' Flute Celeste (enc.)	2' Zauberflote	8' Octave	
4' Octave	1 1/3' Plein Jeu IV	8' Bourdon [digital]	8' Swell to Ped.
2' Lieblich Principal	16' Contra Hautbois	4' Super Octave	8' Great to Ped.
2' Plein Jeu III-IV	8' Trumpet	5 1/3' Rausch Quinte II	8' Enc. Gt. to Ped.
1 1/3' Sharp Mixtur III	4' Rohr Schalmey	32' Contra Hautbois	4' Swell to Ped.
8' Cromone (enc.)	8' Watkins Trompette	16' Contra Hautbois	4' Enc. Gt. to Ped.
8' Watkins Trompette	<i>Tremolo</i>	8' Hautbois	
Chimes [digital]	<i>Sw. 16'</i>	4' Rohr Schalmey	16' Sw. to Gt.
Wilson Chimes [digital]	<i>Sw. Un. Off</i>	8' Watkins Trompette	8' Sw. to Gt.
Zimbelstern [digital]	<i>Sw. 4'</i>	Chimes	4' Sw. to Gt.
Harp [digital]			
Celesta [digital]			16' Enc. Gt. to Sw.
<i>Tremolo</i> (enc. div.)			8' Enc. Gt. to Sw.
<i>Enc. Gt. 16'</i>			4' Enc. Gt. to Sw.
<i>Enc. Gt. Un. Off</i>			
<i>Enc. Gt. 4'</i>			

PORTATIV (floating, prepared)
7 drawknobs, 3 of the 7 for coupling Port/Gt., Sw., Ped.

12 general pistons, duplicated on toe studs
6 Gt. pistons
6 Sw. pistons
4 Portativ pistons
6 Ped. Pistons
Sw/Ped toe stud and man. piston
Gt/Ped toe stud and man. piston.



**Skinner - original installation
before renovation**
(Photo from Aeolian-Skinner web site)



Skinner "rück" stops



Skinner console

Dates to remember:

- March Crawl* - Saturday, March 24th
- April Crawl* - Saturday, April 28th
(to organs in Montgomery County, MD)
- May Crawl* - Saturday, May 19th
(note this is the 3rd Saturday)

Deadline for April Newsletter

Monday, April 16th