

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ORGANS AND MUSICIANS OF ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Palo Alto was organized in 1948; however, the present church building was not completed until 1957. When worship began in late 1948 in St. Mark's Chapel, a Hammond organ was lent by Mrs. Edwin Smith. A used electronic organ was bought from a Burlingame church in 1952. Subsequently a Wurlitzer electric organ and a Baldwin organ were used alternately in the chapel and the parish hall.

The pipe organ of St. Mark's was a gift of Dr. Norman Philbrick and his wife Geraldine M. Philbrick, in memory of their parents. Built by Casavant Frères of St. Hyacinthe, Québec, as Opus 2398, it was installed and voiced in August of 1957 by Richard C. Stenger, Jr., the representative for Casavant. C. Thomas Rhoads designed the specifications with the cooperation of Mr. Stenger. Professor Herbert Nanney of Stanford University played the dedicatory recital on 11 February 1958.

The original Casavant organ of 1957 consisted of 3 manuals, 25 ranks, 28 stops, 1555 pipes. It was prepared for numerous stop additions, as well as an exposed Positiv division and a fanfare trumpet in the rear of the church.

In March 1960, Richard Stenger added a Gallery division, including a hooded fanfare trumpet, with a separate detachable console, playable from the gallery or the floor of the nave.

In April 1963 a contract was signed with Casavant to complete the instrument, only approximately a third of which was installed originally in 1957. Completed in the spring of 1964, the organ resulted in 71 ranks, 4419 pipes, divided into 7 divisions. The original 3-manual console was retained.

In 1982 a committee was formed to oversee the renovation of the organ. Contracts were issued in 1983 for a new four-manual console and revoicing and pipe additions and revisions. David Harris, a former student of Professor Nanney's, completed this work in 1989, culminating in the organ of St. Mark's today. The cymbelstern bell device was a gift of Porter Heaps, Philip and Marleen Clark, and James Welch in 1997.

The Organists of St. Mark's Chapel

Margaret Lockwood and her husband were the first musicians at St. Mark's. Harold Griffin served as organist from late 1948 until December 1950. Mrs. Evelyne "Jerie" Weld came to St. Mark's in December 1950 and served until about 1954. Lucile Price served next, from about 1954 until 1956, when C. Thomas Rhoads came.

The Organists and Music Directors of St. Mark's Episcopal Church

The following have served as organists and music directors at St. Mark's: C. Thomas Rhoads (1956-1968), Edwin Ted Flath (1968-1969), G. Thomas Hazleton (1969-1975), Steve Janzen, Interim (1975), Joe Hansen (1975-1984), Robert Bates (1984-1985), Douglas Butler (1985-1986), Clay Morris (1986-1991), Don Giberson, Assistant (1990-1991) and Organist/Director (1991-1992), Rebecca Maggi, Assistant Director (1990-1992) and Director (1992-2003), Russell Hancock, Interim organist (1992), Thomas Colohan, Director, 2003-2006, and James Welch, organist (1993 to the present). In addition, Porter Heaps served as a substitute in the mid-1960's; Edwin Baer was a deputy organist to Tom Rhoads 1967-68.

Maintenance of the organ over the years has been provided by Richard Stenger, Edward Millington Stout, John West, David Harris, Robert Newton, Stephen Leslie, and Roger Inkpen.

Following is the current specification of the Casavant organ of St. Mark's Episcopal Church:

Great Organ

Spitzflöte 16
Principal 8
Rohrgedeckt 8
Flûte Harmonique 8
Octave 4
Flachflöte 4
Quinte 2-2/3
Super Octave 2
Flachflöte 2
Tierce 1-3/5
Mixture IV
Kontra Trompete 16
Trompete 8
Festival Trumpet 8
Tremulant
Great Unison Off
Great 4

Swell Organ

Quintaton 16
Gedeckt Pommer 8
Flûte Traversière 8
Viola Pomposa 8
Viola Celeste 8
Flauto Dolce 8
Flute Celeste 8
Prestant 4
Flûte a Cheminée 4
Flûte Harmonique 4
Octavin Conique 2
Plein Jeu III-IV
Contre Hautbois 16
Trompette 8
Hautbois 8
Voix Humaine 8
Clairon 4
Tremulant
Swell 16
Swell Unison Off
Swell 4
Festival Trumpet 8 (Gr.)

Choir Organ

Spitz Prinzipal 8
Singend Gedeckt 8
Erzähler 8
Erzähler Celeste 8
Spitz Oktave 4
Koppelflöte 4
Nasat 2-2/3
Blockflöte 2
Terz 1-3/5
Sifflöte 1
Klein Mixtur III
Dulzian Regal 16
Krummhorn 8
English Horn 8
Tremulant
Choir 16

Choir Unison Off
Choir 4
Festival Trumpet 8 (Gr.)

Positiv Organ

Gedackflöte 8
Prinzipal 4
Nachthorn 4
Oktave 2
Quintflöte 1-1/3
Zimbel III
Tremulant
Positiv 16
Positiv Unison Off
Festival Trumpet 8 (Gr.)

Gallery Organ

Gedeckt 8
Stillflöte 8
Unda Maris 8
Prestant 4
Trompette Heroique 8 (Hooded)
Tremulant
Gallery Sub Octave
Gallery Super Octave
Pedal Quintade 16

Pedal Organ

Untersatz 32 (1-12 Electronic)
Gedacktbass 32 (1-12 Electronic)
Kontrabass 16
Subbass 16
Spitzflöte 16 (Gr.)
Gedeckt 16 (Sw.)
Quintaton 16 (Sw.)
Spitz Quinte 10-2/3 (Gr.)
Oktave 8
Gedeckt Bass 8
Gedeckt Pommer 8 (Sw.)
Quintaton 8 (Sw.)
Gross Tierce 6-2/5 (Sw.)
Quinte 5-1/3 (Sw.)
Choralbass 4
Rohrpfeife 4
Waldflöte 2
Mixture IV
Contre Bombarde 32
Bombarde 16
Fagot 16
Basson Hautbois 16 (Sw.)
Bombarde 8
Festival Trumpet 8 (Gr.)
Trompete 8 (Gr.)
Clairon 4
Rohr Schalmey 4
Zimbelstern

Total Sets: 63

Total Ranks: 76
Total Pipes: 4568