

## **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