



PARSONSPIPEORGAN

B U I L D E R S



ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
 Monona, Wisconsin
 30 ranks; 2 manual & pedal
 Mechanical Action
 Parsons/Rosales

photo © 2006 Bruce Fritz

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GREAT

- 16' Prestant
- 8' Principal
- 8' Harmonic Flute
- 8' Chimney Flute
- 8' Gamba
- 4' Octave
- 4' Spire Flute
- 2½' Octave Quint
- 2' Super Octave
- IV Mixture
- 8' Trumpet

SWELL

- 8' Geigen Principal
- 8' Voix Céleste
- 8' Gedeckt
- 4' Principal
- 4' Rohrpipe
- 2½' Nasard
- 2' Doublet
- 1½' Tierce
- III Mixture
- 8' Hautbois
- 8' Cromorne

PEDAL

- 16' Prestant (Gr)
- 16' Bourdon
- 8' Octave
- 8' Flute (ext.)
- 4' Super Octave
- 16' Trombone
- 8' Trumpet (ext.)

Couplers & Accessories

- Great to Pedal
- Swell to Pedal
- Swell to Great
- Tremolo
- Flexible Wind
- Cymbelstern





GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 Kilmarnock, Virginia
 25 ranks; 2 manual & pedal
 Mechanical Action

GREAT

- 8' Principal
- 8' Chimney Flute
- 4' Octave
- 2' Blockflute
- 2' Mixture III - IV
- 2½' Cornet III
- 8' Trumpet
- Swell to Great 16' - 8' - 4'
- Great to Great 4'
- Zimbelstern
- Chimes

SWELL

- 8' Pine Flute
- 8' Viola
- 8' Viola Celeste
- 4' Open Flute
- 2½' Nasard
- 2' Principal
- 1½' Tierce
- 1' Scharff III
- 16' Bassoon (ext.)
- 8' Oboe
- Tremulant
- Swell to Swell 16' - 4'

PEDAL

- 32' Resultant
- 16' Bourdon
- 8' Principal
- 8' Bass Flute (ext.)
- 4' Choral Bass (ext.)
- 16' Bassoon (Sw.)
- Swell to Pedal 8' - 4'
- Great to Pedal 8'

PHILOSOPHY

Our philosophy is simple. We design the very finest pipe organs to inspire worship. We voice them to render the literature of the organ elegantly and effectively, and we build them to last for generations.

Our new instruments combine the traditions of high quality organbuilding with the versatility of new technology. We are committed to helping each client determine goals and develop a plan for an instrument that is best suited to their needs. Organbuilding is a labor of love that, for us, provides a purpose and a means to express ourselves as artisans.

It is by God's grace alone that we are blessed with the knowledge and abilities to build such things of beauty; that musicians are gifted to make them sing; and that music can minister in so many ways. As these instruments lead us in song, may our worship be as an offering to Jesus Christ to whom we give all the glory for what we are able to accomplish through Him.



Richard B. Parsons
President





ZION EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Palmyra, New York
23 ranks; 2 manual & pedal
Electric Action



WESTERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Palmyra, New York
43 ranks; 3 manual & pedal
Electric Slider Action

CLIENT PROCESS / PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Successful pipe organ projects are most often defined by the communication that precedes the development of the organ specification. Most individuals or committees enter into the process of procuring a pipe organ with limited knowledge and are often overwhelmed by the extent of technical, musical, and liturgical considerations that form a necessary part of the discussion. Parsons is well aware of this critical issue and is specifically committed to a collaborative process that creates awareness while facilitating a clear understanding of every aspect of the project. Working in this fashion ensures that the resulting organ meets or exceeds the client's highest expectations.



QUALITY

For a pipe organ to have integrity, each facet of design and construction must be carefully executed. Woods must be properly cured and hand selected for each application, winding systems must be stable yet yielding to give life to the music, and the expressive enclosures must be of adequate mass to soften the pipes to a whisper while incorporating properly designed louvers that will allow a majestic swelling of the sound. Wind chests must be carefully designed and laid out to allow ample room for proper pipe speech and tonal development. Key actions must be designed using minimal mass and low friction-bearing points to ensure a sensitive and responsive touch that is truly an extension of the player. It is through this arduous attention to each detail of construction that the pipe organ will continue to stand the test of time as it earns its place as an integral part of divine worship.



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Penfield, New York
18 ranks; 2 manual & pedal
Mechanical Action



photo credit: Todd Hahn



NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri City, Texas

22 ranks; 2 manual & pedal

Electric Slider Action

GREAT (I)

- 8' Principal
- 8' Harmonic Flute
- 8' Gamba
- 4' Octave
- 2½' Nasard
- 2' Fifteenth
- 1½' Tierce
- IV Mixture (draws 2' Fifteenth)
- 8' Fagott (Pd.)
- Swell to Great 16' - 8' - 4'
- Great 16' 4'

PEDAL

- 32' Resultant
- 16' Subbass
- 16' Lieblich Gedeckt
(1-12 double pressure)
- 8' Octave
- 8' Bass Flute (ext.)
- 4' Choral Bass (ext.)
- 16' Bassoon
- 8' Fagott (ext.)
- Great to Pedal 8' - 4'
- Swell to Pedal 8' - 4'

SWELL (II)

- 8' Geigen Diapason
- 8' Chimney Flute
- 8' Celeste (T.C.)
- 4' Principal
- 4' Spire Flute
- 2' Doublette
- III Mixture (draws 2' Doublette)
- 8' Trompette
- Swell 16' - 4'
- Swell Unison Off

ACCESSORIES:

- Tremulant - *affects entire organ*
- Flexible Wind
- Nightingale
- Zimblestern
- Pedal on Manual - *allows Pedal stops to be set on Great and Swell divisional pistons*

Our 22,000 square-foot shop has ample room for large projects and assembly.



DESIGN

The visual effect that a custom-designed and handcrafted case has on the viewer will determine, before a single note is played, the quality of the music yet to be heard. Our organs are specifically designed to blend with their architectural surrounding. We use artists' renderings and enhanced three-dimensional computer graphics to allow our clients to view our custom designs in a simulated church environment. Computer-aided design allows us to create a variety of perspective renderings and to transfer the final design directly into shop construction drawings.

INVESTMENT

When you are researching the pipe organ builder that is right for your church, remember that you are buying the skill of experienced craftsmen rather than just merchandise. To attain a high level of technology and quality, you must invest at a level that will allow the craftsmen freedom to do their very best for you. This investment will return itself in many decades of reliable service to your congregation.

▲
 EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 OF THE ATONEMENT
 Rochester, New York
 26 ranks; 2 manual & pedal
 Mechanical Action

▶
 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 Sayre, Pennsylvania
 25 ranks; 2 manual & pedal
 Mechanical Action

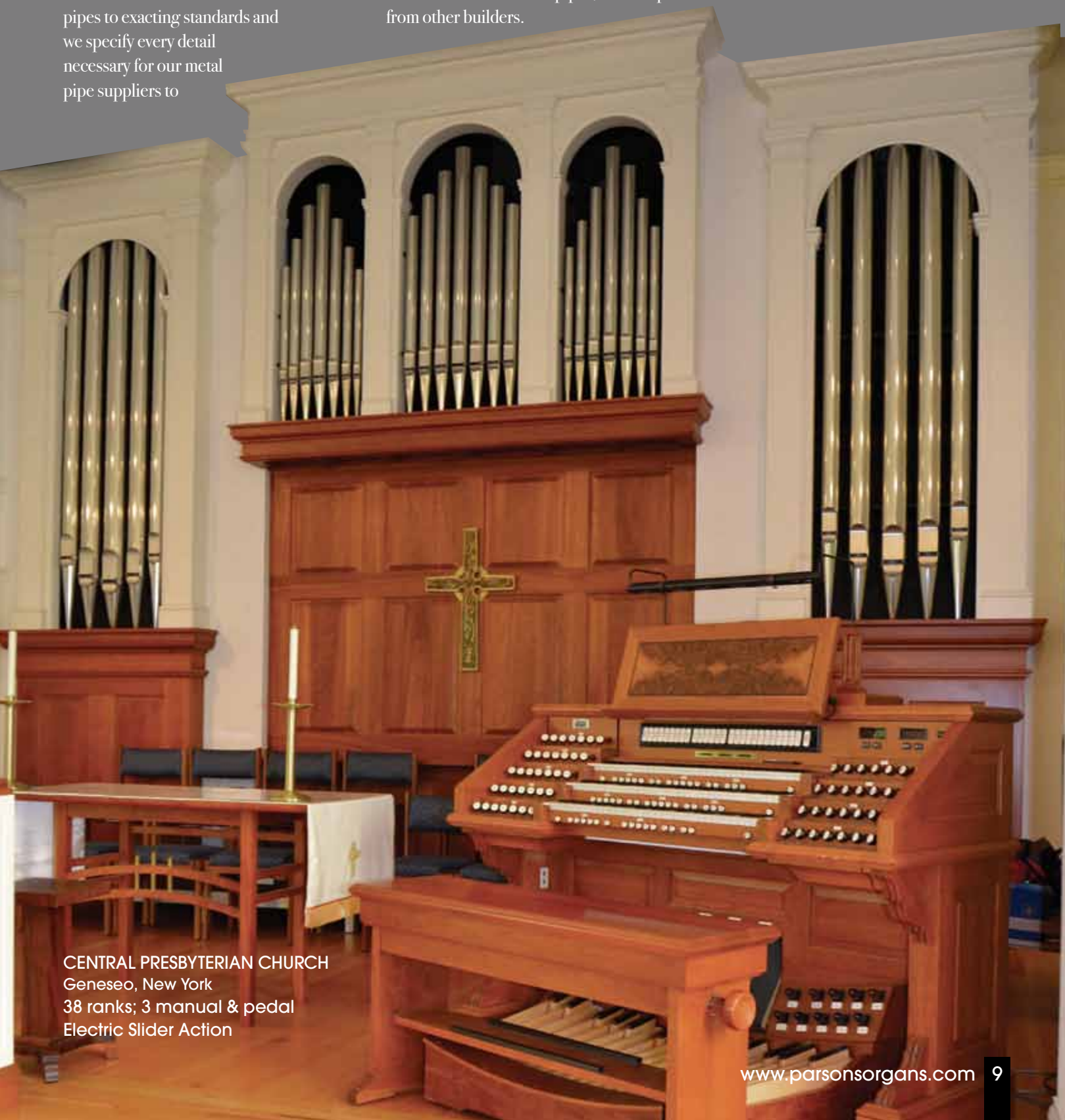


PIPEWORK

Voicing and pipework are the most integral parts of any fine pipe organ. The very reason that discriminating clients choose a pipe organ is due to their refined, elegant, yet powerful sounds. At Parsons we build our wooden pipes to exacting standards and we specify every detail necessary for our metal pipe suppliers to

provide only the finest quality. Being able to hold a pipe, observe its construction, evaluate its potential and artistically alter its physical properties to create a harmonious sound, capable of endless variations when combined with different pipes, sets us apart from other builders.

Using a careful combination of open and closed toes, generous cut ups, moderate wind pressures and careful scaling techniques, our instruments produce a sound that will be appreciated for generations.



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Geneseo, New York
38 ranks; 3 manual & pedal
Electric Slider Action

CASEWORK

The casework is integral to the structure of the organ and to almost every aspect of the design. It acts as a protective covering while serving to blend, focus, and project the sound of the pipe organ. Our casework is built of the finest hardwoods and veneers using traditional joinery.



KEY ACTIONS

Our key actions are carefully executed using both mechanical (tracker) action designs and electric actuators on slider and tone channel wind chests. Mechanical key actions are painstakingly designed and constructed using strong materials that have low mass. Action components of brass, aluminum and hornbeam on low-resistance bearings and trackers of carbon-fiber all contribute to provide the organist with an intimate connection to their instrument.



ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Fredericksburg, Virginia
55 ranks; 3 manual & pedal
Mechanical Action





GREAT (I)

- 16' Praestant
- 8' Principal
- 8' Harmonic Flute
- 8' Chimney Flute (prep.)
- 8' Gamba
- 4' Octave
- 4' Spire Flute
- 2 2/3' Twelfth
- 2' Super Octave
- 1 3/8' Tierce (prep.)
- 1 1/8' Mixture IV
- 8' Trumpet
- 4' Clarion (prep.)
- 8' Festival Trumpet (Pos.)
- Chimes
- Swell to Great
- Positive to Great

POSITIVE (II)

- 8' Viola
- 8' Gedeckt
- 8' Spitz Flute
- 8' Flute Celeste (prep.)
- 4' Principal
- 4' Koppel Flute
- 2 3/8' Nasard
- 2' Block Flute
- 1 3/8' Tierce
- 1 1/8' Quint (prep.)
- 1' Scharff III
- 8' Cromorne
- 8' Festival Trumpet
- 4' Festival Trumpet (ext.)
- Swell to Positive

SWELL (III) (Expressive)

- 16' Lieblich Gedeckt
- 8' Geigen Principal
- 8' Bourdon
- 8' Viole de Gambe (prep.)
- 8' Voix Celeste
- 4' Principal
- 4' Harmonic Flute
- 2' Doublette
- 2' Plein Jeu IV
- 16' Bassoon
- 8' Trumpet
- 8' Oboe
- 4' Clarion (prep.)

PEDAL

- 32' Contra Bourdon (derived)
- 16' Open Wood
- 16' Praestant (Gr.)
- 16' Bourdon
- 16' Lieblich Gedeckt (Sw.)
- 8' Octave
- 8' Open Flute (ext.)
- 8' Bourdon (ext.)
- 8' Gedeckt (Sw.)
- 4' Choral Bass (ext.)
- 4' Gedeckt (Sw.)
- 2 3/8' Mixture IV (prep.)
- 32' Contra Bombarde (prep.)
- 16' Posaune
- 16' Bassoon (Sw.)
- 8' Trumpet (ext.)
- 4' Clarion (ext.)
- Great to Pedal
- Swell to Pedal
- Positive to Pedal

ACCESSORIES

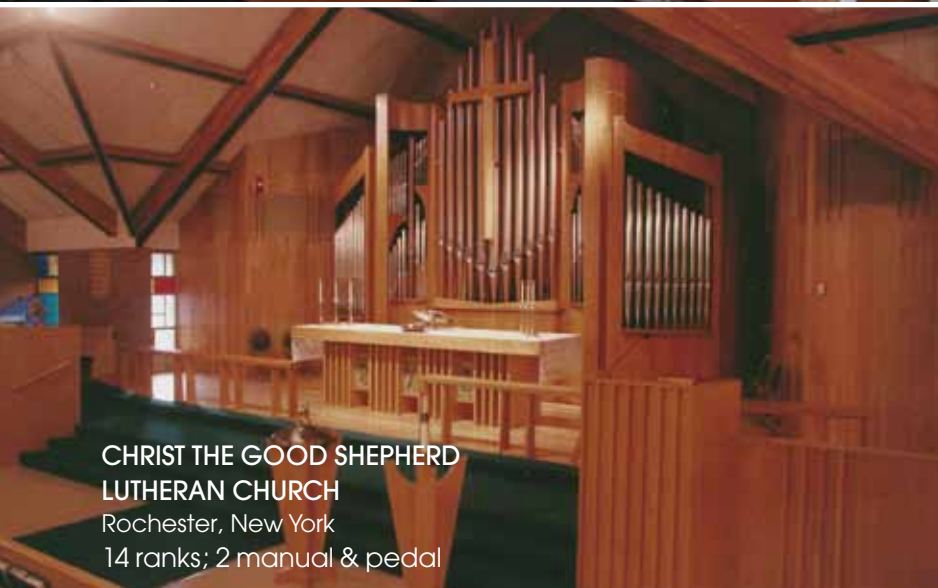
- Tremulant: Great and Positive
- Tremulant: Swell
- Flexible Wind
- Cymbelstern (prep.)
- Nightingale (prep.)



Three manual walnut console with South American bloodwood interior. Key coverings of polished bone and ebony.



NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Elmira, New York
39 ranks; 2 manual & pedal
Casavant Opus 3463, Relocated & Rebuilt



**CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
Rochester, New York
14 ranks; 2 manual & pedal

RELOCATIONS

High-quality pipe organs should provide hundreds of years of reliable service. As stewards of this history, we recognize that it is often appropriate to relocate a historic pipe organ to a new home. Because every pipe organ is custom built, careful modifications and adjustments are almost always necessary during reassembly. Having over five generations of expertise, Parsons is uniquely qualified to make wise decisions which keep the original integrity of the instrument while satisfying the new clients' needs.

ADDITIONS

As needs change over time, Parsons is ready to assist you in making tasteful additions to your pre-existing instrument which will improve its overall value and beauty. We keep a significant stock of historic pipework ready to enhance your current tonal palette.

CONSOLES

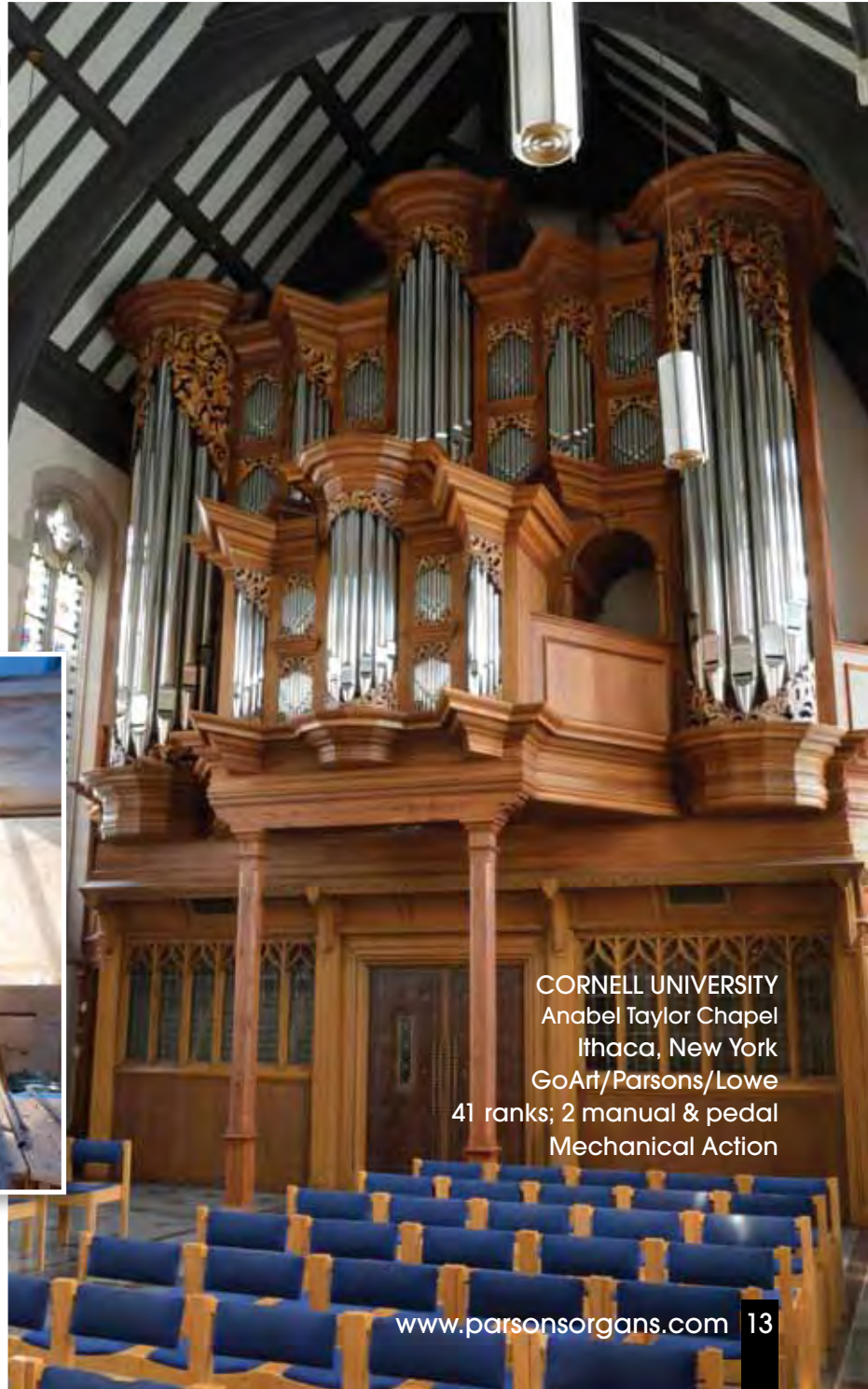
The console is the organist's interface with the instrument. Our designs are elegant and ergonomically efficient, with all functional components, stops and couplers located in logical placements. As in case design, consoles are built to be lasting pieces of furniture that complement their surroundings. Normal features include bone and ebony keyboards, combination actions with multiple levels of memory, balanced expression and crescendo shoes, adjustable benches, and MIDI capability. Every detail from the indicator lights to the mirror and key desk lighting is carefully executed.





NATION-WIDE:
Parsons embraces the opportunities to collaborate with noted American and international organ builders on projects spanning from New York to California.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Venice, California
Parsons/Rosales
8 ranks; 2 manual & pedal



CORNELL UNIVERSITY
Anabel Taylor Chapel
Ithaca, New York
GoArt/Parsons/Lowe
41 ranks; 2 manual & pedal
Mechanical Action

COLLABORATIONS

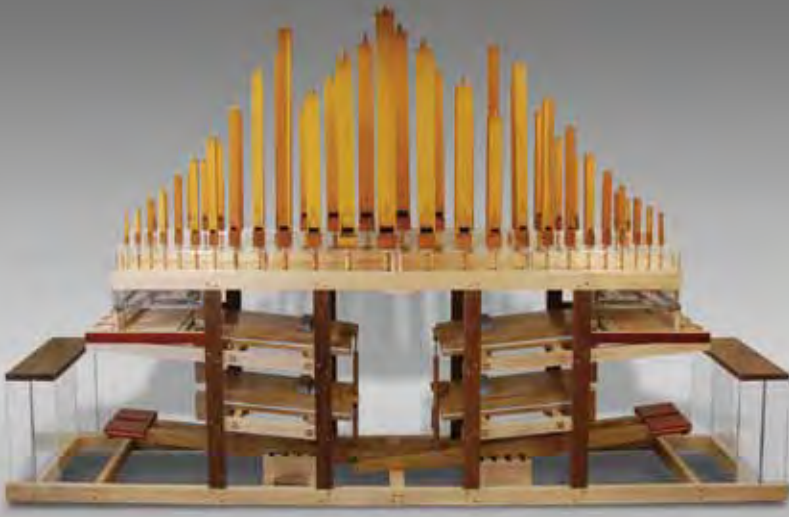
Each new project brings its own set of challenges, and when a project involves collaborators and demands perfection, Parsons flawlessly meets and exceeds these standards through our dedication to the art of organ building. Because our staff has mastered a variety of organbuilding techniques, Parsons offers the versatility and flexibility which are essential for successful collaboration and first-rate results.

photo credit: Jason Koski



Matthew Parsons burning rack holes outside of Anabel Taylor Chapel

UNIQUE ORGAN PROJECTS



THE AUERGLASS ORGAN: (above) New York City; Mechanical Action, foot pumped organ, with a split keyboard requiring two people to create music. Conceived by Tauba Auerbach and Cameron Mesirow.

EDUCATION

Parsons regularly sponsors educational events, because we believe that the future of the industry hinges on education. We regularly host open-house receptions for the general public and the American Guild of Organists' sponsored Pipe Organ Encounters program, and we offer hands-on demonstrations for schools and events using our full-scale sectional model organ.

We maintain memberships in the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America (APOBA), the International Society of Organbuilders (ISO), and the Organ Historical Society (OHS). Many of our staff members belong to the American Guild of Organists (AGO) and the American Institute of Organbuilders (AIO).

Our commitment to ongoing education allows us to learn about new products, materials, and techniques in organbuilding and keeps us abreast of current trends in music and church liturgy. Maintaining a collaborative relationship with organists and other organbuilders is paramount to the future of the pipe organ and our craft.



PARSONS' MODEL ORGAN: Educational tool for schools, one octave cross section of a two manual tracker pipe organ



KODAK MOMENT: Relocation of an organ to replace a missing section of one of the world's largest residence organs in the home of Kodak founder, George Eastman. Parsons has maintained the organ through four generations.



1



2



3

RESTORATIVE CONSERVATION

As faithful stewards, we are each called to consider prayerfully the wisdom and investments of previous generations. Even with careful maintenance, a beloved organ will wear and age over time. Unfortunately, many historic organ firms have dissolved and new parts are not available. Parsons uses historic materials, techniques, and designs to rebuild or recreate exact replacement parts, keeping your historic pipe organ original and authentic.

When the time comes for a complete restoration, Parsons is your choice. The organ is carefully disassembled, catalogued, and removed to our shop for meticulous cleaning, re-leathering, refinishing, and repair. Our restored organs speak and play like new and provide decades of reliable service.

1 ST PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Rochester, New York
67 ranks, 4 manual & pedal
E.M. Skinner; 1927

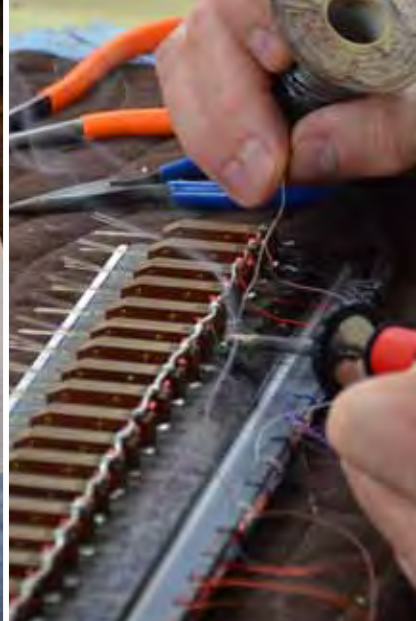
2 ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Lyons, New York
13 ranks, 2 manual & pedal
C.E. Morey; 1907

3 UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF LIVONIA
Livonia, New York
13 ranks, 2 manual & pedal
M.P. Möller; 1902

4 COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
Fort Collins, Colorado
43 ranks, 3 manual & pedal
Casavant Frères; 1968



4



MAINTENANCE

While the organ's sound may come largely from its pipes, a mechanical or electrical failure in the organ can be disastrous. Through a one-time evaluation or an ongoing relationship, Parsons can determine the overall health of your instrument and set out timetables for maintenance and repair needs. While advance planning is always best, our shop is fully equipped to respond to your needs quickly in the case of an emergency.



TUNING

Like all fine instruments, pipe organs are sensitive to changes in temperature and humidity, and require seasonal tuning and maintenance. Parsons uses a scientific approach to tuning to bring out the very best from your instrument. Our service staff keeps detailed records about each organ, so that all mechanical or electrical concerns are resolved effectively and quickly. Parsons has become the premier tuning and service company in New York State, maintaining more than 200 organs annually.



TONAL FINISH

TONAL FINISHING

Parsons Tonal Philosophy is firmly grounded in the past, yet looking ever toward the future.

Our voicing style is influenced not only by great pipe organs already making beautiful music, but more importantly by great choral ensembles and fine orchestras; for if our instruments can sing with the blended musicality of these great ensembles, then they will succeed as both accompaniment and solo instruments.

Our principal choruses are bold and blending, flutes are varied and colorful, strings are evocative and rich, and reeds are powerful and distinctive. Using decades of experience, we carefully scale, voice, and tonal finish each organ to suit the room in which it will sing for generations.

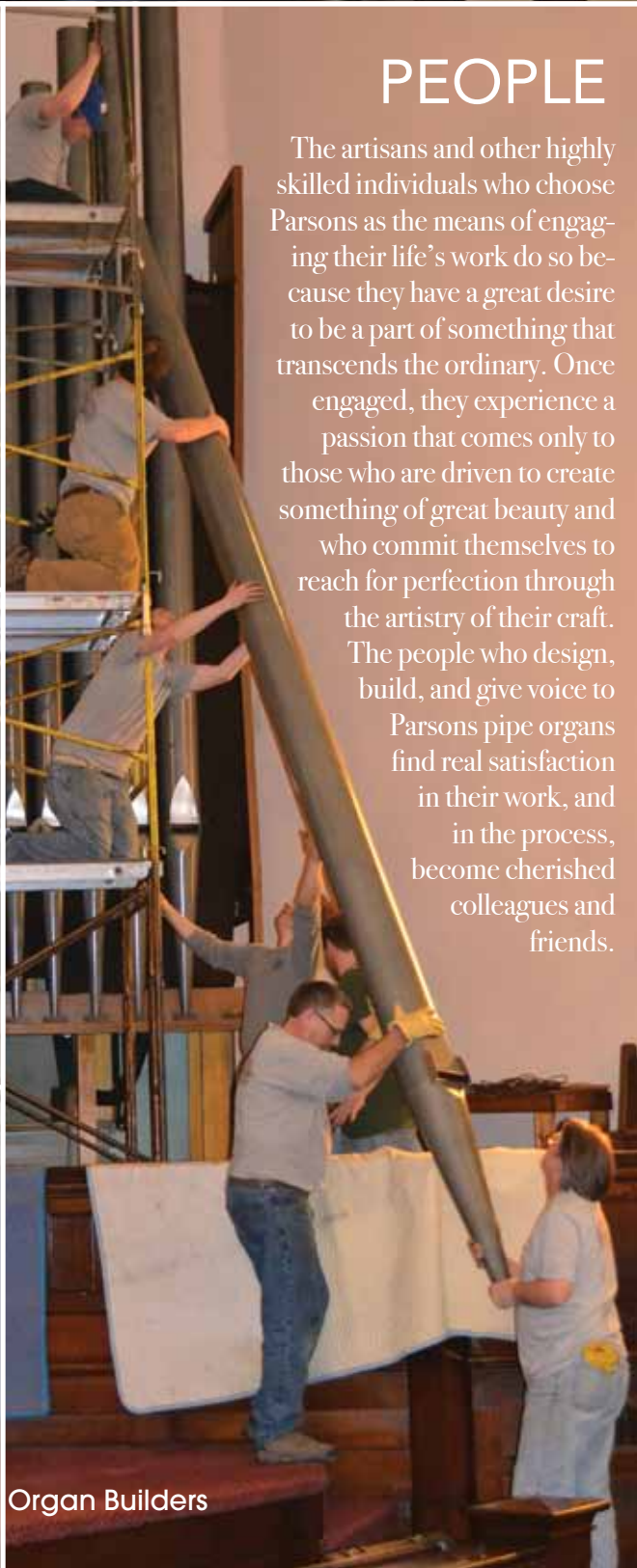


VOICING ROOM: Tonal Director Duane Prill insures that every pipe receives individual attention to the onset of speech, volume, decay and tone color including all aspects of harmonic development.

ECLECTICISM

Each period of organ building has made a unique and valid statement, from 18th Century “Baroque Aesthetic” to 19th Century “Romanticism” to 20th Century “Orchestral and Neo-Baroque” styles. Parsons stands ready to produce the ideal 21st Century American instruments, being ready to embrace the new, but never neglecting lessons learned from the past.





PEOPLE

The artisans and other highly skilled individuals who choose Parsons as the means of engaging their life's work do so because they have a great desire to be a part of something that transcends the ordinary. Once engaged, they experience a passion that comes only to those who are driven to create something of great beauty and who commit themselves to reach for perfection through the artistry of their craft. The people who design, build, and give voice to Parsons pipe organs find real satisfaction in their work, and in the process, become cherished colleagues and friends.



OUR HISTORY

Est. 1921



VOICING ROOM: Gideon L. Parsons, upper left, ca. 1906, J.W. Steere & Son Organ Co.

Five generations ago, in the late 1800's, Gideon Levi Parsons, a musician, settled in Massachusetts to apprentice with noted organbuilder, John Wesley Steere. He married J. W. Steere's niece and had two sons, Bryant and Richard. His career as a flue pipe voicer lasted with John Steere, his son, Frank, and later with another well-known organ builder, Ernest Skinner, who eventually purchased J. W. Steere & Son Organ Co.



Bryant Sr. & Bryant Jr. Parsons

Both of Gideon's sons apprenticed with the Steere firm. Bryant Gideon Parsons continued in organbuilding and, with his general knowledge of the trade, particularly with the "new" technology of electricity in organ actions, installed many of Skinner's instruments, including the large organ at Kilbourn Hall at The Eastman School of Music. Prior to WWI, Bryant was curator of instruments at Yale University. Following the war, Bryant and his wife settled in Rochester, New York, where he had installed many organs previously and rec-

ognized the musical and cultural opportunities that community had to offer. After brief employment with Charles M. Topliff, Organbuilder, he formed his own company in 1921 and continued to focus on service work and historic restorations. Bryant had two children, Bryant, Jr. and Bina.

Bryant G. Parsons, Jr. apprenticed with his father at an early age and with the M.P. Möller Organ Company. He returned to the firm following WWII and, in 1954, they incorporated as Bryant G. Parsons & Son, Inc. Bryant, Sr., retired circa 1960. The company relocated to Penfield, New York, and continued with service and restoration work, as well as building small pipe organs.

Bryant Jr.'s two sons, Richard and Calvin, apprenticed with the firm for many years prior to receiving their degrees in electronics. They purchased the firm in 1979 upon their father's retirement. Two of Richard's sons, Matthew and Timothy have now joined the company.



Richard & Calvin Parsons

The operation has been reorganized and expanded and now includes the design and building of custom pipe organs. Two instruments were built in the Penfield workshop prior to relocating to larger facilities in scenic Bristol Valley, Canandaigua, New York, in 1986. Since then, the company has expanded its operation to major rebuilding and remanufacturing projects, as well as continuing to build new and larger instruments nationwide.

Parsons Pipe Organ Builders uses three-dimensional computer modeling to explore design propositions prior to creating working drawings for the construction of its pipe organs.

Personalized service, quality workmanship and customer satisfaction are key elements in our business. Each pipe organ is custom designed by our craftsmen who participate in this merging of science and art known as organbuilding.



Matthew & Timothy Parsons

Praise ye the Lord.
Praise God in his sanctuary:
praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him for his mighty acts:
praise him according to his excellent greatness.
Praise him with the sound of the trumpet:
praise him with the psaltery and harp.
Praise him with the timbrel and dance:
praise him with stringed instruments and organs.
Praise him upon the loud cymbals:
praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.
Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD.
Praise ye the LORD.

Psalm 150



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