

# Saint John's Episcopal Church, Gig Harbor, Washington

## **Pipe Organ History**

St. John Episcopal Church, 7701 Skansie Avenue, Gig Harbor, WA 98335

The first pipe organ at St. John's began life as M. P. Möller Opus 11241 from 1977 as a three rank "Artiste" enclosed electro-pneumatic instrument. Originally it was a Rohr Flute and Principal (both now on the Great), and a short-compass Larigot  $1\frac{1}{3}'$  (now on the Swell) that borrowed from the Rohr Flute to complete its compass. In 2000, Michael Gardner, of Tacoma added a used Kimball that most recently was at Light of the Cross Lutheran Church in the Thrasher's Corner of Bothell, WA.

The Swell dimensions were 12'10" high; 9'1" deep; 12'5" wide. The freestanding Great division is 9' high and contains three chests: two with 8' Principals and one with a 4' Koppelflute and a quint. The community of Saint John's began a capital campaign in 2020 to replace the Narthex, update the restrooms and open up the space in the rear of the Nave. The current configuration of the organ was in tension with this vision. It was decided to offer the organ to another faith community. With the assistance of the Pipe Organ Foundation, Carl Dodrill, Ph.D., President, the instrument was donated to the Sacred Heart Seminary, Palo, Philippines in their chapel for worship services. The complete analysis is below:

## Specification

GREAT ORGAN	Pipe Count/Comment
1	8 Principal 61 pipes
2	8 Rohrflute 61 pipes
3	8 Erzahler (Swell) from #14
4	4 Octave 61 pipes
5	4 Rohrflute 12 pipes • from #2
6	2 2/3 Nazard (Swell) from #11
7	2 Octave 12 pipes • from #4
8	1 3/5 Tierce MC 30 pipes - top 7 repeat Blank Tablet
9	8 Oboe (Swell) from #18 Blank Tablet Blank Tablet 8 Swell to Great

**Great Division 4 stops, 237 pipes**

SWELL ORGAN	Pipe Count/Comment
10	16 Gedeckt 12 pipes from #11
11	8 Gedeckt 61 pipes
12	8 Salicional 61 pipes
13	8 Celeste TC 49 pipes
14	8 Erzahler 61 pipes
15	4 Gedeckt 12 pipes from #11
16	2 Gedeckt 12 pipes from #11
17	1 1/3 Larigot 61 pipes Blank Tablet
18	8 Oboe 61 pipes Blank Tablet
19	Tremulant

**Swell Division 6 stops, 390 pipes**

PEDAL ORGAN	Pipe Count/Comment
20	16 Subbass 32 pipes
21	16 Gedeckt (Swell) from #10
22	8 Principal 21 pipes - 1-11 from #1
23	8 Gedeckt 12 pipes • from #20
24	4 Octave 12 pipes • from #22
25	II Mixture 12 pipes • from #22 Blank Tablet Blank Tablet Blank Tablet 8 Great to Pedal 8 Swell to Pedal

**Pedal Division 2 stops, 89 pipes**

### **Whole Pipe Organ 12 stops, 716 pipes**

Balanced Crescendo Pedal; currently not wired up  
Balanced Swell Pedal  
On/Off Power Key and Lock  
4 Green Crescendo Indicator Lights (not currently wired in)  
Red Power On Light  
White Tutti Indicator light - No tutti thumb piston or toe stud to activate it

The dedication placard on the console states: "The Pipe Organ is Given To The Glory of God In Loving Memory of Helen G. Reuhl (1918-1970) by John B. Reuhl, Christine & Dexter."

Saint John's Episcopal Church in Gig Harbor, Washington, then commissioned the distinguished organbuilder, Martin Pasi of Roy, Washington to install the Rieger Organ fabricated by the Rieger Orgelbau, Schwarzach, Austria into the sanctuary of Saint John's church. The instrument was originally built for the Recital Hall at the State University of New York at Purchase, New York. The organ, and all the preparation for it, like the incorporation of hardwood floors throughout the Nave and Sanctuary are thanks to the wonderful generosity of Judy and Stan Stearns; the organ will assist in the prayers and praises of the community of Saint John's. The organ was originally installed in 1981, and the initial installation and tonal finishing was overseen by, then Rieger employee, Martin Pasi. Mr. Pasi, after the installation of that instrument, continued to reside in the United States and now leads the firm of Pasi Organ Builders. The firm of Pasi Organ Builders, Incorporated, since 1990 has completed some 27 new instruments. The specification of the instrument originally was:

## **GREAT**

16'	Bourdon
8'	Principal
8'	Gedackt
4'	Octave
2'	Blockflöte
2 2/3'	Mixture Major
1 1/3'	Mixture Minor
1'	Scharff
8'	Krummhorn

## **POSITIVE**

8'	Rohrflöte
4'	Octave
2'	Superoctave
1 1/3'	Quinte
1'	Octävlein

## **PEDAL**

16'	Bourdon
4'	Octave
16'	Fagott
8'	Trompete

As part of this installation in its new home, Mr. Pasi and his team will be building some seven new stops. A Trompette will be created for the Great division; the original 1' Scharff stop will be replaced by a 4' Flute, and the 1 1/3' Great mixture will be replaced by a 2' Principal. The Krummhorn will be placed on the Positive division replacing the 1' Octävlein. As there was no 8' flue line in the Pedal division, the 8' Trompete will be replaced by an 8' Principal-like Salicional, or a Gemshorn. The 16' Fagott will also be new and built by Pasi Organ Builders. The Erzähler and Erzähler Céleste are made possible by the gift of Roger J. Meers. The Zymbelstern is compliments of Martin Pasi. The Tremulant is given by Mrs. and Mr. Carol and Jeff

Waters and Dr. Dennis E. Northway. The final specification , then, will be:

**GREAT**

16' Bourdon  
8' Principal  
8' Gedackt  
4' Octave  
4' Spitzflöte (New pipework)  
2' Octave (New pipework)  
2' Blockflöte  
2 2/3' Mixture Major [IV-VI](#)  
8' Trumpet (New pipework)

**POSITIVE**

8' Rohrflöte  
4' Octave  
2' Superoctave  
1 1/3' Quinte  
8' Krummhorn

**PEDAL**

16' Bourdon  
8' Gemshorn (New pipework)  
4' Octave  
16' Fagott (New pipework)

Positive to Great Coupler  
Great to Pedal Coupler  
Positive to Pedal Coupler  
Tremulant  
Zimbelstern