

**John Brombaugh & Associates Pipe Organ  
Opus 22, 1979; enlarged 1989  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Tacoma WA**



Through the vision of church leaders and Director of Music Ministries, David P. Dahl, this instrument was commissioned from the renowned American organ builder John Brombaugh & Associates of Eugene, Oregon. The instrument is designed after 17th- and 18th-century models from Europe's Golden Age of Organ Building. Housed in a free-standing case made from hand-planed white oak and western cedar, it is adorned with hand-carved pipe shades of yellow cedar. The case design is a modern adaptation of the famed 1483 organ by Lorenzo di Giacomo da Prato, still in use in the church of San Petronio, Bologna, Italy.

Keyboards, made from cow-bone and ebony, are connected to the valves (pallets) under the pipes by slender wooden "trackers." This historic mechanical action provides a direct and sensitive control over the key action for the performer. A single wedge-shaped bellows, located at the side of the organ, supplies a traditional flexible, "living" resilient wind. Electricity is needed only for the small blower and light bulbs illuminating the music desk.

The organ is voiced with Brombaugh's vocale tonal ideal, in which both blend and tonal color are optimally realized in a vocal manner, partially accomplished by the ancient practice of using hammered, high-lead-content pipework. The sound is enlivened by the rich acoustical environment of our 1969 building, designed by award-winning architect, Paul Thiry.

On October 19, 1979, the organ was dedicated during a festival Eucharist.

Since its installation, hundreds of recitals have been performed on the organ by local, national, and international artists. Begun in 2001, Third Fridays at Noon is a year-around organ recital series that features monthly 40-45 minute programs.

The Brombaugh organ has been featured in national and regional conventions of The American Guild of Organists, The Organ Historical Society, The American Institute of Organ Builders, and the Westfield Center for Early Keyboard Studies.

### Disposition

The organ has 26 stops on 31 ranks, with 1430 pipes and 4 bells

#### Great: 56 notes

16' Quintadena	3' Quint (+Tierce 1 3/5' on double draw)
8' Praestant (lower facade)	2' Octave
8' Holpijp	III-V Mixture 1'
4' Octave	8' Harfenregal
4' Spitzflöte	8' Trumpet

#### Positive: 56 notes

8' Gedackt	3' Nasard (full compass) + Tierce 1 3/5', from c' (on double draw)
8' Erzähler (tapered string)	2' Cigarflute
8' Erzähler Celeste (ten. f - d''') (on double draw) (* added in 1989)	III Scharf 2/3
4' Praestant (upper facade)	8' Krummhorn (musette shape)
4' Rohrflöte	

**Pedal:** 30 notes (C - f') Flat pedal board

16' Subbass

8' Octave

4' Octave

16' Posaune

8' Trumpet (from Great)

**Couplers:** Great to Pedal; Positive to Great; Positive to Pedal

**Cymbelstern** (4 tempered steel rod "bells" struck by hammers, wind operated)

**Key Action:** Mechanical (tracker) action, suspended

**Stop Action:** Mechanical

**Tremulant:** Variable speed and depth, affecting entire organ

**Temperament:** Unequal = Kellner, with five fifth comma 5ths

**Bellows:** Single wedge bellows, with flexible winding; selectable wind stabilizer

**Wind Pressure:** 83 mm

**Casework:** Fumed white oak, with hand carved pipe shades from basswood, in the Italian manner

*Christ Episcopal Church*

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For more information about the music at Christ Church,  
or the Brombaugh organ, please contact  
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