

THE BECKERATH ORGAN



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
COLUMBUS, OHIO

In 1968, an organ committee was formed at First Congregational Church to study the problems of an aging and crumbling pipe organ that had led the music and song of the church for 37 years. After deciding that a completely new pipe organ should be installed in this historic and architecturally rich John Russell Pope edifice, this committee chose the Hamburg, Germany, firm of Rudolph von Beckerath (1907-1976) to build and install a visually beautiful and aurally thrilling three manual, 47 stop, mechanical action organ in the Nave's large Gallery. After extensive acoustical renovations, the organ was delivered and installed in 1972 at a cost of 300,000 Deutsche Marks.

The Beckerath organ is comprised of 47 stops, 73 ranks, and contains 3,575 pipes. Each of the three manuals contains 56 notes, and the pedal compass is 32 notes. It employs mechanical key action and electric stop action.

The main case is of solid oak. The metal pipework has a high tin content, while the wooden pipes are of mahogany. The console (located in the main casework) uses grenadille, pear, and ebony woods. Placement of the divisions in the case are as follows: the Great is centrally located directly above the horizontal trumpets; the Swell is behind the louvers; the Positiv hangs off of the Gallery rail in its own case; the Pedal is in two towers on either side of the Great and Swell.

The instrument was inaugurated in a series of three recitals in the fall of 1972 by international and national artists, and was immediately recognized as one of the finest pipe organs in the midwestern United States. Since that time, the organ has been visited by literally thousands of travelers and organ enthusiasts. The list of artists that have played recitals here reads like a virtual who's-who in the organ world of the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

Today, she enriches the worship life of this congregation every week, and magnifies the musical life of Columbus, Central Ohio and beyond, as her pure and clear tones serve as a beacon of clarity in our communities.

THE STOPLIST

Great (II/56 notes)

16' Quintadena
8' Principal
8' Spielflöte
4' Octave
4' Hohlflöte
2^{2/3}' Nasat
2' Octave
1^{3/5}' Terz
VI Mixture (2')
III Cymbel (1^{1/2})
8' Trumpet
8' Spanish Trumpet
4' Spanish Trumpet

Swell (III/56 notes)

16' Bordun
8' Rohrflöte
8' Gemshorn
8' Celeste
4' Viola
4' Flute Octaviante
2' Flachflöte
III Cornet (2^{2/3}', 1^{3/5}', 1^{1/7}')
V Mixture (2')
16' Dulcian
8' Oboe
4' Musette
Tremolo

Positiv (I/56 notes)

8' Gedackt (wood)
8' Quintadena
4' Principal
4' Rohrflöte
2' Octave
1^{1/3}' Quinte
1' Sifflöte
II Sesquialtera
IV-VI Scharf (1')
8' Cromorne
Tremolo

Pedal (32 notes)

16' Principal
16' Subbass
10 2/3' Quint (wood)
8' Octave
8' Rohrgedackt
4' Octave
2' Nachthorn
III Basszink (5^{1/3}', 3^{1/5}', 2^{2/7}')
VI Mixture (2^{2/3})
16' Posaune
8' Trumpet
4' Trumpet

Cover photo by Joseph Bellissimo.

Inside photo spreads are details of the Barnard Music Window, photo by Kevin Jones.

Back cover photo is an upward looking view of the Spanish Trumpets. Photo by Kevin Jones.

