

READING TOWN HALL



The organ was built by Henry Willis in 1864 for the old Town Hall, which dates from 1785. Additional buildings, designed by Alfred Waterhouse, were erected in front of the small Hall in 1876. The present large Hall was added in 1882, to a design by Thomas Lainson in harmony with the Waterhouse building; the Art Gallery and Reading Room completed this impressive group of municipal buildings in 1894.



The organ was rebuilt by Willis for the new Hall in 1882, with magnificent casework designed by Thomas Lainson jnr, and new front pipes of tin. The Solo Organ and several other stops (shown by an asterisk in the specification) were new at that time, the old Solo Organ becoming the new Choir Organ.

During the twentieth century the only changes made to the organ were the installation of electric blowing, probably in the 1920s; the lowering of the pitch in 1947; and the introduction of a balanced swell pedal in 1964.

In 1999 Harrison & Harrison comprehensively restored the organ; the work included reinstatement of the original sharp pitch ($c = 540\text{Hz}$) and lever swell pedal, thus returning the organ to its 1882 form.

THE FATHER WILLIS ORGAN

1864 and 1882

RESTORED BY

HARRISON & HARRISON

1999

READING TOWN HALL

PEDAL ORGAN

1.	Open Diapason	(wood)	16
* 2.	Violone		16
3.	Bourdon		16
4.	Principal		8
* 5.	Ophicleide		16

CHOIR ORGAN

6.	Lieblich Gedact		8
* 7.	Viol d'Amore		8
8.	Salcional		8
9.	Flûte Harmonique		4
10.	Piccolo Harmonique		2
11.	Corno di Bassetto		8
12.	Oboe		8

GREAT ORGAN

* 13.	Double Diapason		16
14.	Open Diapason		8
* 15.	Open Diapason		8
16.	Claribel Flute		8
17.	Principal		4
18.	Flûte Harmonique		4
19.	Twelfth		3
20.	Fifteenth		2
21.	Mixture	17.19.22	
22.	Posaune		8
* 23.	Clarion		4

The actions are mechanical, with pneumatic lever to the Great Organ and pneumatic assistance to the Pedal Open Diapason.

Manual compass 58 notes; Pedal 30 notes

SWELL ORGAN

24.	Double Diapason		16
25.	Open Diapason		8
26.	Stopped Diapason		8
27.	Principal		4
28.	Piccolo		2
29.	Sesquialtera	17.19.22	
30.	Cornoepen		8
31.	Hautboy		8
* 32.	Vox Humana		8
33.	Clarion		4

SOLO ORGAN

* 34.	Hohl Flute		8
* 35.	Concert Flute		4
* 36.	Orchestral Oboe		8
* 37.	Tuba		8

COUPLERS

Choir to Pedals *Choir to Great*
Great to Pedals *Swell to Great*
Swell to Pedals *Swell Sub Octave (to Great)*
Solo to Pedals *Swell Super Octave (to Great)*
Solo to Great

ACCESSORIES

Four composition pedals to Pedal and Great
 Three composition pedals to Swell
 Reversible pedal to *Great to Pedals*
 Swell Tremulant (foot lever)
 Lever swell pedal

* Stops dating from 1882

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