

THE USHER HALL, EDINBURGH



Photographs by C.R.A. Davies

Although Harrison & Harrison were originally invited to build the organ for the new Usher Hall, Norman & Beard were eventually chosen. This monumental instrument is entirely unaltered, apart from the provision of new blowing equipment during the 1960s, and the more recent re-siting of the console closer to the organ.

After many years of silence the restored organ was inaugurated by Dame Gillian Weir on 7 June 2003. With its powerful, full-bodied flue and reed choruses and its wealth of orchestral reeds and strings, it commands the Hall in a remarkable way.



There were some technical challenges for the restorers. For example, the wind system is exceptionally complex, with no fewer than 26 single-rise reservoirs. Furthermore, although the connection between console and organ was electric from the start, the couplers within the organ are purely pneumatic: the tallest of the coupler machines is nearly 3 metres high, with a correspondingly intricate array of pneumatic tubing.

At the console, the drawstops are pneumatically actuated, but the original pistons are now controlled by a modern setter system; general pistons and a sequencer have been discreetly added.

NORMAN & BEARD 1914

RESTORED BY
HARRISON & HARRISON
2003

THE USHER HALL, EDINBURGH

PEDAL ORGAN

| | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|----|
| 1. | Double Open Diapason (from 4) | 32 |
| 2. | Open Diapason (Wood) | 16 |
| 3. | Open Diapason (Metal) | 16 |
| 4. | Violone | 16 |
| 5. | Bordun | 16 |
| 6. | Dulciana | 16 |
| 7. | Echo String Bass (from 22) | 16 |
| 8. | Octave Diapason (from 2) | 8 |
| 9. | Principal (from 3) | 8 |
| 10. | Octave Bordun (from 5) | 8 |
| 11. | Super Octave | 4 |
| 12. | Ophicleide | 16 |
| 13. | Contra Posaune (from 40) | 16 |
| 14. | Tromba (from 12) | 8 |

CHOIR ORGAN (15-28 enclosed)

| | | |
|-----|----------------------|---|
| 15. | Geigen Diapason | 8 |
| 16. | Dulciana | 8 |
| 17. | Hohl Flöte | 8 |
| 18. | Cor de Nuit | 8 |
| 19. | Unda Maris (tenor c) | 8 |
| 20. | Flauto Traverso | 4 |
| 21. | Flageolet | 2 |

ORCHESTRAL ORGAN (on Choir keys)

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------|--------|
| 22. | Contra Viola | 16 |
| 23. | Viole d' Orchestre | 8 |
| 24. | Viole Octaviant | 4 |
| 25. | Cornet d' Violes 10.12.15 | 3½ rks |
| 26. | Orchestral Clarinet | 8 |
| 27. | Orchestral Oboe | 8 |
| 28. | Carillon | |

Tremulant

*Choir to Pedal
Great to Pedal
Swell to Pedal
Solo to Pedal*

*Swell to Choir
Solo to Choir
Orchestral Octave
Orchestral Sub Octave
Orchestral Unison Off*

COUPLERS

*Choir to Great
Swell to Great
Swell Octave to Great
Swell Sub to Great
Solo to Great*

*Solo to Swell
Swell Octave
Swell Sub Octave*

*Solo Octave
Solo Sub Octave
Solo Unison Off
Orchestral Strings to Solo*

ACCESSORIES

Six foot pistons to the Pedal Organ
Four pistons to the Choir and Orchestral Organs
Six pistons to the Great Organ
Six pistons to the Swell Organ (duplicated by foot pistons)
Two pistons to the Solo Organ
Twelve general pistons and general cancel
The above pistons have 128 general and eight divisional memories (one divisional memory reserved for '1914' settings)

Two separately adjustable pistons for each manual, with a single memory
Reversible pistons: *Great to Pedal, Swell to Great, Solo to Great*
Reversible foot piston: *Great to Pedal*
Sequencer, operating general pistons
Rocking tablets: *Great and Pedal pistons*
Generals on foot pistons, Carillon dampers On / Off
Manual compass 61 notes; Pedal 32 notes

GREAT ORGAN

| | | |
|-----|------------------------|------------------|
| 29. | Double Open Diapason | 16 |
| 30. | Open Diapason (Large) | 8 |
| 31. | Open Diapason (Medium) | 8 |
| 32. | Open Diapason (Small) | 8 |
| 33. | Claribel Flute | 8 |
| 34. | Stopped Diapason | 8 |
| 35. | Octave | 4 |
| 36. | Octave Flute | 4 |
| 37. | Octave Quint | 2 ^{2/3} |
| 38. | Super Octave | 2 |
| 39. | Harmonics 17.19.21.22 | 4 rks |
| 40. | Contra Posaune | 16 |
| 41. | Tromba | 8 |
| 42. | Clarion | 4 |

SWELL ORGAN

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-------|
| 43. | Lieblich Bordun | 16 |
| 44. | Open Diapason | 8 |
| 45. | Violoncello | 8 |
| 46. | Lieblich Gedakt | 8 |
| 47. | Salicional | 8 |
| 48. | Voix Celeste (tenor c) | 8 |
| 49. | Principal | 4 |
| 50. | Liebliche Flöte | 4 |
| 51. | Lieblich Piccolo | 2 |
| 52. | Mixture 12.15.17.19.21.22 | 6 rks |
| 53. | Double Trumpet | 16 |
| 54. | Cornopean | 8 |
| 55. | Hautboy | 8 |
| 56. | Clarion | 4 |
| 57. | Vox Humana | 8 |

Tremulant

SOLO ORGAN (58-62 enclosed)

| | | |
|-----|-------------------------|----|
| 58. | Harmonic Claribel Flute | 8 |
| 59. | Concert Flute | 4 |
| 60. | Cor Anglais | 16 |
| 61. | Orchestral Trumpet | 8 |
| 62. | Corno di Bassetto | 8 |
| 63. | Tuba | 8 |

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