

THE HARRISON STORY

Thomas Harrison started his own business in Rochdale in 1861, and moved to Durham in 1872. Thomas's sons took over in 1896, with Harry designing the organs, and Arthur becoming a voicer of legendary vision and perfectionism. Arthur died in 1936, and Harry retired shortly after the War, leaving the firm in the hands of his son Cuthbert. Mark Venning succeeded Cuthbert Harrison as Managing Director in 1975. He is a past President of the International Society of Organbuilders. In 2011, Dr Christopher Batchelor took over as Managing Director; Mark Venning continues as Chairman.

EVOLUTION. Our early organs all had tracker action, and many are still in excellent working order a century later. The main principles of our work have not changed in 150 years, but our techniques have evolved, and modern methods of construction have been introduced. We now use bone instead of ivory for keyboards, and electric blowers instead of choirboys for the wind; and our slider chests make allowance for well-heated churches. The firm moved in 1996 to a purpose-built workshop. It is designed around a courtyard allowing natural light for all, and the atmosphere is informal and friendly.

NEW ORGANS. Arthur Harrison would still recognise the colourful and exquisitely-blended sound of a modern Harrison organ. H&H are known for large and distinguished instruments with electro-pneumatic action, and also for excellent organs with tracker action. Even in a busy city church an H&H organ will last many years before needing any significant work. Our 15-year guarantee is just the beginning.

DESIGN work starts with the voicer: the sound of an H&H organ goes hand in hand with a good layout. CAD is well established as one of our tools, much appreciated by the designers. Pipes, mechanism, casework and carving are made in our workshop. The firm trains its own craftsmen, many from school-leaving age. An awareness of international trends and techniques has been augmented by interaction with craftsmen from other European countries.

RESTORATION. Our consistently high standards have made us a natural choice for a series of high-profile restorations. The aims of the original builder are of first importance. Restoration can be full of surprises as we rediscover the inventiveness of earlier generations of master organbuilders. We delight in giving new life to historic instruments, both large and small, and restoring the mechanism to work as originally intended. We are specialists in the unusual and highly complex art of pneumatic restoration. We never lose interest in any organ we have built or restored.

2011

HARRISON & HARRISON

MAKERS AND RESTORERS OF FINE ORGANS



Enquiries are welcome for new organs of all sizes
as well as for restoration and repairs
There is a tuning and maintenance service
throughout Great Britain



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Managing Director Christopher Batchelor
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HARRISON & HARRISON LTD
ORGAN BUILDERS



Photograph C.R.A. Darrico

Some notable Harrison organs

Abingdon, St Helen III/25 (<i>pneumatic restoration</i>)	1927, 2005
Belfast, St Anne's Cathedral IV/70	1907, 1975
Bristol, Clifton College IV/46	1911, 1977/94*
Bristol, Colston Hall IV/94	1956
Bristol, St Mary Redcliffe IV/71	1912, 1947*
Cambridge, King's College IV/79	1934, 1968, 1992
Charterhouse School III/36	1927, 1979
Coventry Cathedral IV/74	1962
Croydon Parish Church (Hill 1869) IV/58	1969*
Dumfries, St John III/37	1938/2008
Dundee, Caird Hall III/50 (<i>pneumatic restoration</i>)	1923, 1992
Durham Cathedral (Willis 1877) IV/98	1905/35, 1970*
Durham, Hatfield College II/16	1883, 2001
Edinburgh, St Mary's Cathedral (Willis 1879) IV/58	1931/59*
Egham, Royal Holloway Chapel III/42	1978
Ely Cathedral IV/80	1908, 1975, 2000
Exeter Cathedral (Willis 1891) IV/69	1933, 1965, 2003
Gosforth, All Saints III/37 (<i>pneumatic restoration</i>)	1929, 1994
Harrow School Speech Room IV/72	1955*
Hereford Cathedral (Willis 1892) IV/67	1978*
Leicester Cathedral IV/50	1930, 2003
Lincoln Cathedral (Willis 1898) IV/64	1960*
London, All Souls, Langham Place IV/74	1976*
London, All Saints, Margaret Street IV/63	1910, 1957, 2002
London, St James, Muswell Hill III/55	1955, 2011
London, Royal Festival Hall IV/103 (<i>partly reinstalled</i>)	1954/2013
London, St Clement Danes' Church III/38	1958*
London, Temple Church (built for Glen Tanar: 1924) IV/62	1954, 2013
London, All Saints, Tooting Graveney III/41	1907*
London, Westminster Abbey V/110	1937, 1987
Oxford, Balliol College Chapel III/24	1938*
Repton School III/35	1929*
Ripon Cathedral (Lewis 1878), 2nd console 2000 IV/59	1926, 1963*
St Albans Cathedral IV/63	1962, 2009
St Andrews, Holy Trinity (Willis 1909) III/53	1966, 1974, 2008
Wellington College III/40	1921, 1981
Wells Cathedral IV/67	1910, 1973*
Winchester Cathedral (Willis 1854/97) IV/79	1938, 1988
Windsor Castle, St George's Chapel IV/72	1965*
Nigeria, St John's Church, Aroloya, Lagos, III/48	1985
Japan, Holy Trinity Church, Tokyo II/13	1980, 1992

Most of these organs are still in our care. Earlier organs marked with * have been restored by us in subsequent years without major alteration.

More recent Harrison organs

Mechanical action

Chamber organs for Ely Cathedral, Ripon Cathedral and others
Practice Organs (II/5) for James Lancelot, Nottingham High School, Christopher Storr, Mark Venning
Douglas, IoM, St George's Church (2003: II/22)
Fenham, Newcastle, St Robert's Church (1980: II/13)
Glenalmond College, Perth (2007: II/26)
Leighton Buzzard Parish Church (1989: III/35)
Tunbridge Wells, St Augustine's R.C. Church (1994: II/12)
Twickenham Parish Church (1996: II/20)
Twyford Parish Church, Hampshire (2006: II/18, in the spirit of the 1867 Walker organ)
West Ham Parish Church (1986: II/21)
Winchester College, Fromond's Chantry (2005: II/6)
Windsor Castle, The Private Chapel (1997: I/6)
Denmark, St Alban's Church, Copenhagen (2005: II/21, including 7 stops from 1887 Walker organ)
South Korea, Seoul Cathedral (1985/2006: II/20)
USA. Emmanuel Church, Chestertown, MD (1993: II/23)
USA. Church of the Good Shepherd, Rocky Mount, NC (1998: II/22)

Electro-pneumatic action

Bury St Edmunds, St Edmundsbury Cathedral (2010: IV/59, including 36 stops from old organ)
Cirencester Parish Church (2009: IV/63, including 30 Willis stops from old organ)
Exeter Cathedral (2003: Minstrel organ, 8 stops)
Glasgow University Memorial Chapel (2005: III/48, including 30 stops from 1928 Willis organ)
Lichfield Cathedral (2000: nave organ, 13 stops)
London, Holy Trinity, Sloane St (2012: IV/71, based on pipework by JW Walker, 1891/1934)
London, Westminster Central Hall (2011: IV/66, based on Hill pipework of 1912)
St Davids Cathedral, Pembrokeshire (2000: IV/54, including 31 stops from 1883 Willis organ)
U.S.A. Front Street United Methodist Church, Burlington, NC (2002: III/55)
U.S.A. Christ Church, Grosse Pointe, MI (2001: III/49)
U.S.A. St James's Episcopal Church, Hendersonville, NC (1999: III/44)
U.S.A. Church of the Holy Spirit, Lake Forest, IL (1995: III/47, based on the 1972 Harrison organ)
U.S.A. Hope United Church of Christ, St Louis, MO (2002: II/33)
U.S.A. Trinity Episcopal Church, Vero Beach, FL (1997, moved to new church 2005: III/41)
U.S.A. St Paul's Episcopal Church, Winterhaven, FL (1990: III/32)

Some organs rebuilt or restored since 1985

Armley, St Bartholomew (2004: restoration of 1869 Schulze organ, pneumatic action IV/57)
Cambridge, Emmanuel United Reformed Church (1992: Willis 1880, restoration with re-creation of tracker action, II/23)
Cambridge, Queens' College (2002: restoration of organ by J.J. Binns 1892, III/32)
Cullercoats, Newcastle upon Tyne, St George's Church (1987: restoration of 1885 Lewis organ, II/26)
Edinburgh, Morningside Parish Church (2004: restoration of Willis 1901/Rushworth & Dreaper 1929, III/33)
Edinburgh, Usher Hall (2003: restoration of 1914 Norman & Beard organ, IV/63)
Glasgow Cathedral (1996: complete reconstruction of 1879 Willis organ, IV/69)
Glasgow, Cottier Theatre (formerly Downhill Parish Church) (2007-12: Willis 1876; restoration, recreation of Barker machine, III/31)
Lichfield Cathedral (2000: reconstruction of 1884/1908 Hill organ, IV/82)
London, St John's Church, Upper Norwood (1999: restoration of 1882 Lewis organ, III/36)
London, St Mary's Church, Primrose Hill (2012: restoration of 1872 Hill organ, III/36)
London, Westminster Cathedral Grand Organ (1984/96: Willis 1922-32, IV/78) Apse Organ (1984: Lewis 1906, II/38)
Nottingham, Albert Hall (1993: restoration of 1909 Binns organ, pneumatic action, IV/59)
Oxford, Worcester College (2005: restoration and enlargement of 1865 Nicholson organ, II/19)
Paisley Abbey (2010: rebuild of 1968 Walker organ, IV/67)
Peterborough Cathedral (1981/2004: Hill 1868 and 1894, IV/86)
Reading, St Giles-in-Reading (1998: Walker 1867; restoration, re-creation of tracker action, III/33)
Reading Town Hall (1999: restoration of 1864/1882 Willis organ, IV/37)
Salisbury Cathedral (1978/93: restoration of 1877 Willis organ, IV/65)
Shrewsbury, St Chad's Church (2011: restoration of 1904 Norman & Beard organ, III/35)
Southwark Cathedral (1991: restoration of 1897 Lewis organ, IV/61)
Australia, St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne (1990: restoration of 1890 Lewis organ, IV/53)
Eire, St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin (1995: Willis 1902, IV/65)
Sweden, Västerås Cathedral (1998: Åkerman & Lund 1898, restoration and enlargement, IV/68)
Sweden, Stockholm City Hall (2008: complete reconstruction of 1925 Walcker organ, V/135)