

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN

The organ, given to the cathedral by Lord Iveagh, was built by Henry Willis & Sons in 1902. Father Willis, who died the previous year, must have been responsible for much of the planning. An organ chamber was specially constructed in the north triforium of the quire, allowing a spacious layout. A small amount of pipework from the old organ was re-used: the smallest Great Open Diapason, the Choir Stopped Diapason and the present Pedal Octave Flute contain pipes made for the Cathedral by Renatus Harris in 1695.

The original console and pneumatic actions survived until 1963 when J.W. Walker & Sons installed a new console (still in the triforium) and electro-pneumatic actions. They made some changes (marked * in the specification), providing new upperwork on the Choir Organ and altering the manual Mixtures. Happily, the splendid reeds were mostly left unaltered. In 1987 Rushworth & Dreaper overhauled the console and installed the present electrical equipment.

In 1994 Harrison & Harrison cleaned the entire organ and carried out general repairs, giving special attention to the pipework. The wind pressures were re-assessed and corrected, in order to restore the original details of voicing. + The Choir Mixture and Cremona (altered in 1963) were revised; # the Great Mixture was re-made and a new 3-rank Mixture added, both using Willis scales and compositions. The musical structure is now very much as Willis left it in 1902.

Later stages of work will involve overhaul of the action and no fewer than 20 wind reservoirs.

THE WILLIS ORGAN OF 1902

RESTORED BY

HARRISON & HARRISON

1995