

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL



Father Willis built a three-manual organ with 32 stops in 1883. It stood on the choir screen, where its appearance became subject to criticism ("a poor exhibition of woodwork and paint", as one observer described it). The whole organ was contained within the case, except for the longest pipes of the Pedal Open Diapason and Violone; these were placed respectively in the south nave triforium and behind the north choir stalls, where they remain. The Pedal Ophicleide was added by the Willis firm in 1906.

In 1953, Hill Norman & Beard rebuilt the organ within a new, much smaller case designed by the Cathedral Architect, Alban Caroë. Inevitably, the layout became very cramped. The original action (tracker with pneumatic lever) was replaced by pneumatic action, with a new console, and most of the Pedal stops were relocated south of the choir stalls.

Numerous changes were made to the organ over the next forty years: these included the installation of electro-pneumatic action and remodelling of the Choir Organ by Rushworth & Dreaper in 1980. Chief among the changes made by Percy Daniel & Co was the addition of twelve 32ft Open Wood pipes from St Marylebone Parish Church, which were installed in the south transept in 1988. Fortunately for posterity,



31 Father Willis stops (including some which were providentially stored at the Deanery) survived these alterations to provide the inspiration for the new organ, which was completed in 2000.

As an essential first step, the Caroë case was re-designed in consultation with Caroë and Partners, the Cathedral architects. The west elevation is entirely new.

The main part of the organ (including the new Tuba and most of the Pedal Organ) is contained within the enlarged case on the screen; the new West Choir Organ is in a "chair" case projecting towards the nave. The new console, like its predecessors, is on the south side of the screen. The East Choir Organ is on the south side of the choir stalls, together with the new Contra Trombone rank.

Dr Roy Massey was the consultant for the project, with the then Cathedral Organist, Geraint Bowen.

Photographs by C.R.A Davies

HARRISON & HARRISON
2000

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL

PEDAL ORGAN

# 1. Double Open Wood	(from 2)	32
2. Open Wood		16
# 3. Open Diapason		16
4. Violone	(bass from 21)	16
5. Bourdon		16
*6. Principal		8
7. Bass Flute		8
*8. Fifteenth		4
*9. Contra Trombone		32
10. Ophicleide		16
*11. Trombone	(from 9)	16

*I West Choir to Pedal II Great to Pedal
III Swell to Pedal IV East Choir to Pedal*

SWELL ORGAN

33. Lieblich Bourdon		16
34. Open Diapason		8
35. Lieblich Gedackt		8
36. Salicional		8
37. Vox Angelica	(tenor c)	8
38. Gemshorn		4
39. Flageolet		2
*40. Mixture	17.19.22	III
*41. Contra Fagotto		16
42. Cornopean		8
43. Hautboy		8
*44. Clarion		4

*XI Tremulant XII Octave
XIII Sub Octave XIV Unison Off
XV East Choir to Swell*

WEST CHOIR ORGAN

*12. Lieblich Gedackt		8
*13. Viole d'Amour	(bass from 12)	8
*14. Lieblich Flute		4
*15. Principal		4
*16. Nazard		2 ² / ₃
*17. Open Flute		2
*18. Tierce		1 ³ / ₅
*19. Mixture	15.19.22	III
*20. Cremona		8

V Tremulant VI Swell to West Choir

EAST CHOIR ORGAN *Enclosed*

*45. Contra Gamba	(1-12 stopped wood)	16
46. Claribel Flute		8
47. Gamba		8
48. Dulciana		8
49. Voix Céleste	(tenor c)	8
*50. Principal		4
51. Flûte Harmonique		4
52. Piccolo		2
53. Corno di Bassetto		8

XVI Tremulant

Unenclosed

*54. Tuba		8
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*XVII Octave XVIII Sub Octave
XIX Unison Off XX Swell to East Choir*

GREAT ORGAN

21. Double Diapason		16
22. Open Diapason No. 1		8
23. Open Diapason No. 2		8
24. Claribel Flute		8
25. Principal		4
*26. Flûte Harmonique		4
27. Twelfth		2 ² / ₃
28. Fifteenth		2
29. Sesquialtera	17.19.22	III
*30. Mixture	19.22.26.29	IV
31. Tromba		8
32. Clarion		4

*VII Reeds on East Choir
VIII West Choir to Great IX Swell to Great
X East Choir to Great*

ACCESSORIES

Eight general pistons and general cancel
Two pistons to the couplers
Eight foot pistons to the Pedal Organ
Eight pistons to the West Choir Organ
Eight pistons to the Great Organ
Eight pistons to the Swell Organ (duplicated by foot pistons)
Eight pistons to the East Choir Organ
Reversible pistons : I - IV, VI, VIII - X, XV, XX
Reversible foot pistons : II, IX
Combination couplers : *Great and Pedal pistons*
Generals on Swell foot pistons
Manuals I and IV exchange
The pistons are adjustable, with 256 general and eight divisional memories.
Sequencer, acting on the general pistons

The manual compass is 61 notes, the pedal 30 notes

* New stops. # 1988, from St Marylebone Parish Church
All other stops are by Willis

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