

A Journey of Discernment: Organ Revitalization Recommendations

6/21/2016

Agenda

- Problem Statement
- Approach
- Committee Members
- Organ basics
- Criteria for solution analysis/selection
- Solution Options
- Recommendations
- Summary

Problem Statement

- Last major organ rebuild in the 1960's
 - Swell was rebuilt in 2002
- Instrument is unreliable and sensitive to temperature and humidity fluctuations
 - Deteriorating leathers, pipe metal fatigue, water damage
 - Causes ciphers and complicates tuning and voicing (timbre)
- Console needs to be updated
- Voicing of instrument not really conducive to Anglican worship style
- Organ solo “stops” are very poor
- Insufficient sound in front for choir and congregational accompaniment

Approach

- Organ committee established to research
- Collaborate with organ professionals to establish options
- Solicit proposals, conduct site visits to see and hear organs
- Prayerfully consider and evaluate options, and recommend plan which presents the *best value* considering the needs of the church:
 - What type of instrument
 - Who will do the work

Organ Committee Members

- Carroll Howe
- Mark Gibson
- Ian McGreevy
- David Haughwout
- Sarah Heald
- Ellis Kitchen
- Rhonda Scott

Organ Basics

- Great, Swell, Pedal, Chancel Organ
- Console
- Pipes, Leathers, Blower
- Tuning
- Brief history of this organ

Criteria for Solution Option Analysis/Selection

- Cost
- Quality & Sound
- Versatility
 - Ability to effectively accompany choir and congregational singing
 - Potential to use for organ concerts (music outreach)
- Application to All Saints' Episcopal worship
- Maintenance
- Longevity
- Environmental Stamina

Solution Options

- Install New Pipe Organ
 - Cost-prohibitive (\$1M-\$3M for instrument equivalent capability of current organ)
 - Did not consider further
- Refurbish and enhance existing pipe organ with all-pipe solution
 - 4-part proposal submitted by Steiner-Murphy Organ Co. (Mark Steiner)
- Refurbish existing pipe organ, with digital additions (“Hybrid” solution)
 - 3-concept Rodgers Organ proposal submitted by RA Daffer Church Organs, Inc. (Ken Brown)
- Implement all-digital organ
 - Proposals submitted by Allen Organs (Jonathan Boksan and Ken Saliba) and Rodgers Organ (Daffer, Ken Brown)

Refurbish Existing Pipe Organ Solution

- Refurbish and enhance existing pipe organ with all-pipe solution and new 3-manual console
- Key Differentiating Benefits
 - Most reuse of current pipe organ
 - Considerate of pipe organ enthusiasts
- Key Differentiating Risks
 - Still have current environmental/mechanical issues to deal considering ongoing maintenance
 - Doesn't address problems with tuning
 - Long-term maintenance could become an issue, since there are few people apprenticing to become pipe organ service people
- Cost - \$260,471 (Steiner)

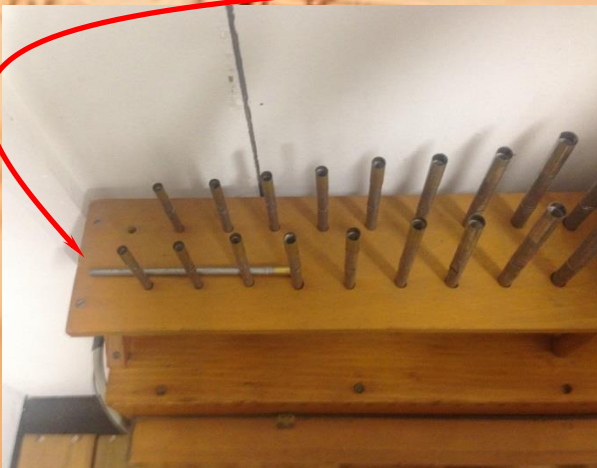
Some Example Photos



Leaning pipes
due to metal
fatigue



Pipe removed
due to cipher



Pipe/Digital Hybrid Solution

- Refurbish existing pipe organ, with digital additions, and new 3-manual console
- Site Visit – Cathedral of the Incarnation, Baltimore MD
- Key Differentiating Benefits
 - Partially eliminates ongoing leather and tuning maintenance and other environmental/mechanical issues
 - May be good compromise for pipe organ enthusiasts
 - Positions the organ to continue to be viable in the long-term; if desired, can migrate to all-digital at later time
- Key Differentiating Risks
 - Still have current environmental/mechanical issues to deal with on ongoing maintenance basis.
 - Long-term maintenance could become an issue, since there are few people apprenticing to become pipe organ service people
 - Partially mitigates tuning issues
- Cost - \$207,000 (Rodgers)

All Digital Solution

- Implement all-digital organ, and new 3-manual console
- Site visits – Christ Church, Kensington MD (Allen); St. Mark's Catholic in Catonsville, MD (Rodgers)
- Key Differentiating Benefits
 - Completely eliminates ongoing leather, tuning, maintenance and other environmental/mechanical issues
 - Easier to change voicing if needed...more versatile instrument
 - Very few moving parts means minimal maintenance
 - Positions the organ to continue to be viable in the long-term
 - High-quality sound remarkably comparable to all pipe solution
- Key Differentiating Risks
 - May take some work to gain acceptance by pipe organ enthusiasts
 - Storage or alternate uses of existing organ
- Cost - \$280,000 (Allen, custom), \$208,000 (Rodgers, stock)

Option Comparison Summary

CRITERIA\ACTION	Do Nothing	Install New All-Pipe Organ	Refurbish and enhance Existing Pipe Organ (All-pipe solution)	Refurbish Existing organ and enhance with Digital additions ("Hybrid" solution)	Install New All Digital Organ
Cost	Green	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Instrument Quality	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green
Maintainance ⁽¹⁾	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green
Instrument Versatility ⁽²⁾	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green
Instrument Longevity ⁽³⁾	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Green
Instrument Environmental Stamina ⁽⁴⁾	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green
Application to All Saints' Worship ⁽⁵⁾	Red	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green

Color Legend: Unfavorable Favorable

Notes:

- (1) Maintenance is primarily limited by continued availability of skilled professionals to perform it. This is a dying art.
- (2) Instrument versatility includes ability to effectively accompany choir and congregational singing, and use for organ concerts
- (3) Instrument longevity/viability is primarily limited by ability to maintain the instrument.
- (4) Going-in assumption for this committee was that no changes will be made to the historic church environment (eg. Instrument location, temperature, humidity)
- (5) Ability of instrument to support worship at All Saints' considering sound quality, voicing and ability to support choir and congregation

Recommendations

- Organ type: All-Digital solution
- Who will do the work: Allen Organ with support from All Saints'
 - Allen Organ proposal presents best value solution. Key decision factors in choosing Allen:
 - Committee felt Allen was better-sounding instrument than Rodgers
 - French Console offered by Allen is beautiful, and shorter than standard 3-manual console, which will facilitate choir accompanying and directing
 - Allen is well-established, reputable company, and very likely to be in business long-term, which facilitates maintenance/service for life of the instrument
 - There could be potential parts/service issues with Rodgers, due to company buy-out
- In addition to having the beautiful new console, recommend keeping existing pipe façade and herald (chamade) trumpets (people hear what they see)
- Allen have delayed a price increase pending our decision

Allen Three-Manual French Console



All Saints' Episcopal Church Frederick, MD

Summary

- Arriving at the digital solution and Allen recommendations was a journey
- Very high quality instrument that will ensure instrument viability well into foreseeable future
- Best value solution for All Saints' considering present and future