

THE ERNEST M. SKINNER ORGAN AT ROCKEFELLER CHAPEL ~ OPUS 634

Built by master organ builder Ernest M. Skinner, Rockefeller's Opus 634 is one of the great romantic organs of America. It was completed in 1928 at the cost of \$76,500, and boasted at that time 6,980 organ pipes distributed over 108 ranks (sets of pipes), ranging in speaking length from 3/8 inch to 32 feet.

At the time of the contract in 1927, the organ was planned to be located entirely in the chancel organ chamber, but the decision was subsequently made to include a small two-manual organ in the south gallery for the purpose of accompanying the choir. The size of the chancel organ was reduced to include the gallery organ within the original cost. The two consoles each controlled the resources of the entire organ: the massive four-manual chancel console with drawknobs for every organ stop and a small two-manual gallery console, which contained drawknobs only for the gallery organ stops but could sound the chancel organ "blindly" through a combination action.

In the 1950s, the original gallery console was replaced with a two-manual Schlicker console, built as small as possible to conserve space within the gallery. At the same time two continuo stops were added to the gallery organ, chiefly for use in baroque performances.

During the 1970s, some of the original Skinner pipework was removed and sold to make way for further baroque additions, and some mechanical restoration work was performed. But over the decades that followed, the organ deteriorated both from water leaks and from lack of funding to maintain its aging reservoirs and windchests. In 2001, the instrument was temporarily shut down, and funding to rebuild it was sought.

In 2005, President Don Michael Randel declared the restoration of both organ and carillon a priority, and that same year trustees and friends of the university presented him with a birthday gift of \$1.6 million with promises of continued efforts to secure total funding.

The Schantz Organ Company of Orrville, Ohio, was selected to undertake the restoration of the organ. Some original Opus 634 pipes were located and restored, and replica pipes were carefully constructed to replace those ranks which had been lost or damaged. Twenty-two new ranks of pipes in the style of the other Skinner university organs (at Michigan, Yale, and Princeton) were added to correct the reduction in the size of the chancel organ during the original design process. Several other new ranks were included to improve the accompanying capabilities of the gallery organ, and the layout of both chancel and gallery organ chambers was entirely reengineered. The instrument now boasts 8,565 organ pipes distributed over 132 ranks, the largest in Illinois, and the original Skinner windchests and reservoirs have been meticulously restored. The chancel console was also rebuilt, using the original hand-carved case designed by Rockefeller Chapel architect Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, and a new two-manual console was installed in the south gallery. Both consoles and the entire electrical system of the organ employ twenty-first century technology.

When the pipes were removed in 2006, it was discovered that a large portion of the south chancel chamber wall was "fill" material and not load-bearing for the massive weight of the tower and carillon above. The decision was made to create a new tonal arch in this wall to allow, for the first time, propagation of chancel organ sound directly into the main nave, to great acclaim.

THE E.M. SKINNER ORGAN ~ SPECIFICATIONS

GREAT ORGAN

21 DK - 1,713 pipes - 28 ranks [unenclosed]

Pitch	Stop Name	Pipes
32'	Violone (Pedal)	5
16'	Open Diapason	61
8'	First Open Diapason	61
8'	Second Open Diapason	61
8'	Third Open Diapason	61
8'	Principal Flute	61
8'	Lieblich Gedeckt	61
8'	Erzähler	61
8'	Orchestral Strings IV (Choir)	
4'	Octave	61
4'	Principal	61
4'	Flute Harmonique	61
2-2/3'	Twelfth	61
2'	Fifteenth	61
1-3/5'	Seventeenth	61
	Mixture V	305
	Cymbal VII	427
16'	Double Trumpet	61
8'	Tromba	61
4'	Clarion	61
	Chimes (Solo)	

SWELL ORGAN

25 DK - 2,338 pipes - 34 ranks [enclosed and expressive]

16'	Dulciana	73
16'	Bourdon	73
8'	Open Diapason	73
8'	Claribel Flute	73
8'	Chimney Flute	73
8'	Flute Celeste II	134
8'	Gamba	73
8'	Voix Celeste II	146
8'	Echo Viol	73
8'	Echo Viol Celeste	73
8'	Orchestral Strings IV (Choir)	
4'	Octave	73
4'	Flute Triangulaire	73
4'	Gemshorn	73
4'	Unda Maris II	146
2'	Flautino	61
	Chorus Mixture V	305
	Cornet V	305
16'	Posaune	73
8'	Cornocean	73
8'	French Trumpet	73
8'	Oboe	73
4'	Clarion	73
8'	Vox Humana	73
	Tremolo	

CHOIR ORGAN

21 DK - 1,473 pipes - 21 ranks [enclosed and expressive]

16'	Gamba	73
8'	Geigen Principal	73
8'	Gamba	73
8'	Concert Flute	73
8'	Orchestral Strings IV	292
8'	Kleine Erzähler II	134
4'	Geigen Octave	73
4'	Gambette	73
4'	Flute Harmonique	73
2-2/3'	Nazard	61
2'	Piccolo	61
1-3/5'	Tierce	61
1-1/7'	Septième	61
16'	Bassoon	73
8'	English Horn	73
8'	Clarinet	73
8'	Orchestral Oboe	61
	Tremolo	
	Harp	61 bars
	Celesta	
8'	Randel State Trumpet (Gallery)	

SOLO ORGAN

18 DK - 730 pipes, 10 ranks [enclosed and expressive]

8'	Open Diapason	73
8'	Flauto Mirabilis	73
8'	Gamba	73
8'	Gamba Celeste	73
16'	Heckelphone	73
8'	French Horn	73
8'	Corno di Bassetto	73
8'	Tuba	73
8'	Tuba Mirabilis	73
4'	Clarion	73
16'	Bassoon (Choir)	
8'	English Horn (Choir)	
8'	Orchestral Oboe (Choir)	
8'	Orchestral Strings IV (Choir)	
	Chimes	25 bells
	Tremolo	
	Chancel Zimbelstern	
8'	Randel State Trumpet (Gallery)	

PEDAL ORGAN

27 DK - 420 pipes - 9 ranks [unenclosed]

64'	Gravissima	32 notes
32'	Major Bass	56
32'	Violone	56
16'	Major Bass	
16'	Diapason	56
16'	Open Diapason (Great)	
16'	Violone	
16'	Bourdon	56
16'	Dulciana (Swell)	
16'	Echo Lieblich (Swell)	
16'	Gamba (Choir)	
8'	Octave	
8'	Major Bass	
8'	Gedeckt	
8'	Still Gedeckt (Swell)	
8'	Cello	
4'	Super Octave	
4'	Flute	
2-2/3'	Mixture IV	128
32'	Bombarde	68
16'	Trombone	
16'	Posaune (Swell)	
16'	Bassoon (Choir)	
8'	Tromba	
8'	Posaune (Swell)	
4'	Clarion	
8'	Randel State Trumpet (Gallery)	

GALLERY GREAT ORGAN

11 DK - 793 pipes - 13 ranks - [enclosed and expressive]

8'	Open Diapason	61
8'	Melodia	61
8'	Gedeckt	61
8'	Gemshorn	61
8'	Gemshorn Celeste	61
4'	Octave	61
4'	Rohrflöte	61
2'	Fifteenth	61

1-1/3'	Mixture IV	244
8'	Trumpet	61
	Gallery Zimbelstern	

GALLERY SWELL ORGAN

15 DK - 974 pipes - 15 ranks - [enclosed and expressive]

16'	Echo Bourdon	85
8'	Open Diapason	73
8'	Rohrflöte	
8'	Salicional	73
8'	Voix Celeste	73
4'	Octave	73
4'	Flute Harmonique	73
2-2/3'	Sesquialtera II	122
2'	Flageolet	61
2'	Mixture III	183
16'	Flugel Horn	12
8'	Cornocean	73
8'	Corno d'Amore	73
	Tremolo	
8'	Randel State Trumpet	61

GALLERY PEDAL ORGAN

12 DK - 124 pipes - 2 ranks

32'	Resultant	32 notes
16'	Principal	56
16'	Bourdon	56
16'	Echo Bourdon (Gallery Swell)	
8'	Octave	
8'	Bourdon	
8'	Rohrflöte (Gallery Swell)	
4'	Super Octave	
4'	Bourdon	
16'	Double Trumpet (Gallery Great)	12
16'	Flugelhorn (Gallery Swell)	
4'	Flugelhorn (Gallery Swell)	