

Trinity Lutheran Church Palo Alto

1295 Middlefield Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94301

Hook & Hastings Organ, Opus 1898, 1986, 8 ranks, 9 stops, 422 pipes

Rebuild by Hupalo & Repasky, 2013, 16 ranks, 17 stops, 920 pipes

www.trinitylutheranpaloalto.com



Technical Description of Rebuilt Hook & Hastings Pipe Organ

The organ has 920 pipes, up from 442 before it was renovated in 2012. There are 744 metal pipes and 176 wood pipes. Most are flu pipes (786), but some (134) have reeds (R). Before renovation all pipes were operated by tracker action. Inside the console the table was completely rebuilt with sliders and links to accommodate additional pipes. 127 pipes, including the 66 pipes for the pedals, use electrically operated valves (E).

The 920 pipes are arranged in 16 ranks and controlled by stops as follows:

ORGAN SPECIFICATIONS

Great (lower keyboard)

<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Operation</i>
8' Open Diapason	61	M		
8' Melodia	61	W	*	
8' Dulciana	61	M		
4' Octave	61	M		
2' III Mixture	183	M	*	
8' Trumpet	61 R	M	*	E

Swell (Upper keyboard)

8' Viola	61	M		
8' Stopped Diapason	61	W		
4' Flute Harmonique	61	M		
2' Piccolo (Flautino)	61	M	*	
1 1/3' Quint	61	M	*	
8' Oboe	61 R	M		

Pedals

16' Bourdon (SubBass)	12	W		E
8' Bourdon	12	W		E
4' Flute	30	W	*	E
16' Trombone	12 R	M	*	E
8' Trumpet (Great)	R	M	*	E

Couplers

Great to Pedal	Swell to Pedal	Swell to Great
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Tremolo

History of the renovated and expanded Hupalo & Repasky Pipe Organ

The Hook & Hastings Company of Boston MA had been in the business of building tracker (mechanical action) pipe organs since 1827, when it produced Opus 1898 in 1901. The pipe organ was shipped via clipper ship around Cape Horn to San Francisco CA, and was installed at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, a Catholic convent. It survived the 1906 earthquake, and served the Academy as it moved to different locations. In 1940 it was sold to the Schoenstein Organ Company of San Francisco, where it was held in storage until 1944, when Trinity Lutheran Church in Palo Alto bought it for the sum of \$800. Throughout all these years the organ remained basically unchanged.

Although H&H organs were known for their fine craftsmanship, mellow tone, and smooth voicing, this pipe organ was relatively small, with only 442 pipes in 8 ranks, two manuals and a pedal board. Around 1977 there was a move afoot to replace or upgrade the organ, but to no avail. Hupalo & Repasky Pipe Organs of San Leandro CA, which had been servicing and tuning this organ for several years, came up with a proposal in 2012 to rebuild and expand the instrument. It was a challenging project because of limited space both inside the console and in the choir loft in the rear of the church. In July the organ was removed and hauled to the H&R shops where over the next 9 months it was completely renovated. The table above the wind-chest was redesigned to increase the number of pipes it could accommodate, and to add sliders for additional ranks. New pipes were fabricated in the H&R shops. Some components were recycled from abandoned organs. The bellows were completely rebuilt. Leather straps that link levers were replaced with adjustable steel wires. Stopped pipes were re-leathered. The tremolo was replaced with a more reliable mechanism. The limited space inside the console made it necessary to place about a hundred new pipes along the sides of the console and in a corner behind the console. These ranks of pipes, as well as a few inside the console use electrically actuated valves rather than mechanical linkages. The net result of these changes has been a pipe organ that retains the fine craftsmanship and tone quality of the original organ, but now offers an expanded and richer choice of sound. The rebuilt pipe organ was returned to service at Trinity Lutheran in April of 2013.

Trinity Lutheran Church of Palo Alto has certainly played a part in preserving a chapter in the history of American organ building.

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