

MUSICAL INTEGRITY | MECHANICAL EXCELLENCE | SUPERIOR TONE

# HILOSOPH

### **OUR MISSION**

**OUR PHILOSOPHY IS SIMPLE.** We design the very finest pipe organs to inspire worship. We voice them to render the literature of the organ elegantly and effectively, and we build them to last for generations.

Our new instruments combine the traditions of high quality organbuilding with the versatility of new technology. We are committed to helping each client determine goals and develop a plan for an instrument that is best suited to their needs. **Organbuilding is a labor of love** that, for us, provides a purpose and a means to express ourselves as artisans.

It is by God's grace alone that we are blessed with the knowledge and abilities to build such things of beauty; that musicians are gifted to make them sing; and that music can minister in so many ways. As these instruments lead us in song, may our worship be as an offering to Jesus Christ to whom we give all the glory for what we are able to accomplish through Him.

RICHARD B. PARSONS
- PRESIDENT



### Featured Instruments

Canandaigua, NY ······ The United Church
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 4-: FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
La Jolla, CA ······ 6-; St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal
Auburn, NY ······ 8 St. Mary's Church
St. Louis, MO
Sarasota, FL 10 Ringling Bros. Ca d'Zan Mansion
ROCHESTER, NY 1 GEORGE EASTMAN HOUSE
Fredericksburg, VA ······ 12-1: St. George's Episcopal Church
Buffalo, NY 19 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
MINONA, WI 16 St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
FAIRPORT, NY16 St. John of Rochester
Fort Collins, CO 17 Colorado State University
KILMARNOCK, VA 17 GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
New York City, NY 18 AUERGLASS ORGAN PROJECT
ITHACA, NY
OUR HISTORY 23

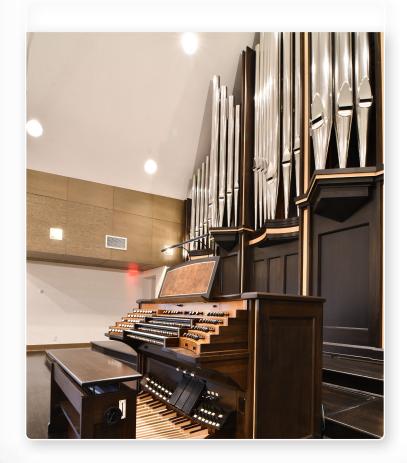


**CONTACT INFORMATION** 



### VISUAL DESIGN

THE VISUAL EFFECT THAT A CUSTOM-**DESIGNED** and handcrafted case has on the viewer will determine, before a single note is played, the quality of the music yet to be heard. Our organs are specifically designed to blend with their architectural surrounding. We use artists' renderings and enhanced three-dimensional computer graphics to allow our clients to view our custom designs in a simulated church environment. Computer-aided design allows us to create a variety of perspective renderings and to transfer the final design directly into shop construction drawings.



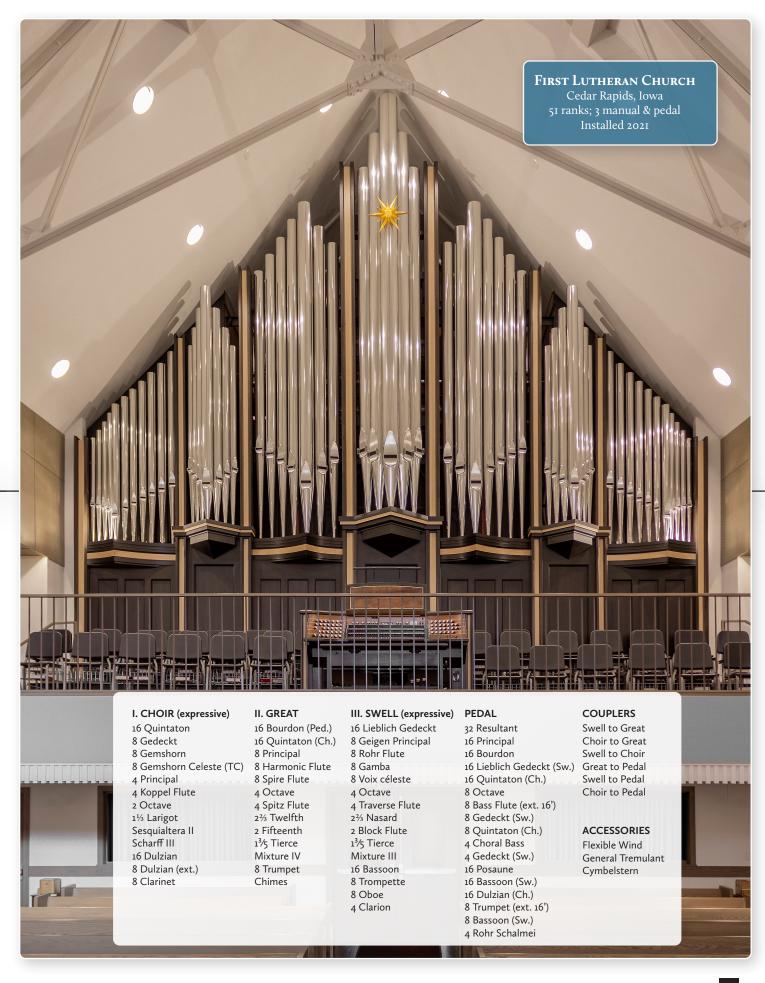
### VOICING

THE ULTIMATE TEST of an artistic pipe organ is that it meets all musical requirements. While the mechanism of each organ is essential for reliable and technically accurate performance, it is ultimately subservient to the sound the organ creates. Every pipe receives individual attention to the onset of speech, volume, decay and tone color including all aspects of harmonic development. It is this attention to detail that enables the player to control all of the subtle nuances that can be experienced in a well-built pipe organ.

#### **MECHANICAL SPECIFICATIONS:**

The First Lutheran case is of walnut with ebony, burled elm, quarter sawn white oak and figured maple accents; the organ's steel structure ensures stability for the key action connecting the detached console to the windchests; modern carbon fiber trackers and adjustable pneumatic assists are used to ensure a responsive key action; Expression enclosures and louvers of 2 1/4" thick maple; a single wedge bellows provides wind to the organ and is stabilized with a series of tunable concussion bellows; and the organ's environment is stabilized with a micro-climate air circulation system designed to quietly and effectively keep temperature and humidity consistent with the church nave.





### TONAL PHILOSOPHY

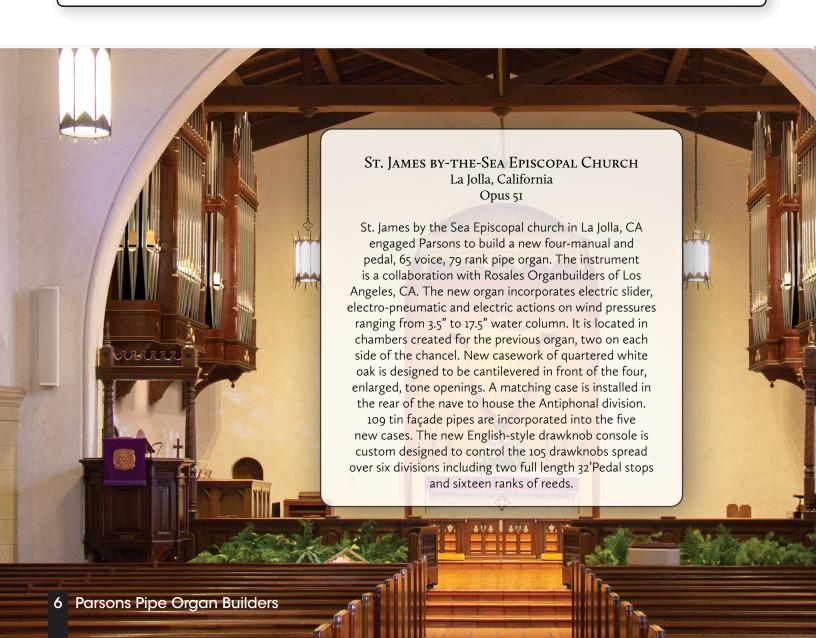
PARSONS TONAL PHILOSOPHY IS FIRMLY GROUNDED IN THE PAST, yet looking ever toward the future. Our voicing style is influenced not only by great pipe organs already making beautiful music, but more importantly by great choral ensembles and fine orchestras; for if our instruments can sing with the blended musicality of these great ensembles, then they will succeed as both accompaniment and solo instruments.

Our principal choruses are bold and blending, flutes are varied and colorful, strings are evocative and rich, and reeds are powerful and distinctive. Using decades of experience, we carefully scale, voice, and tonal finish each organ to suit the room in which it will sing for generations.

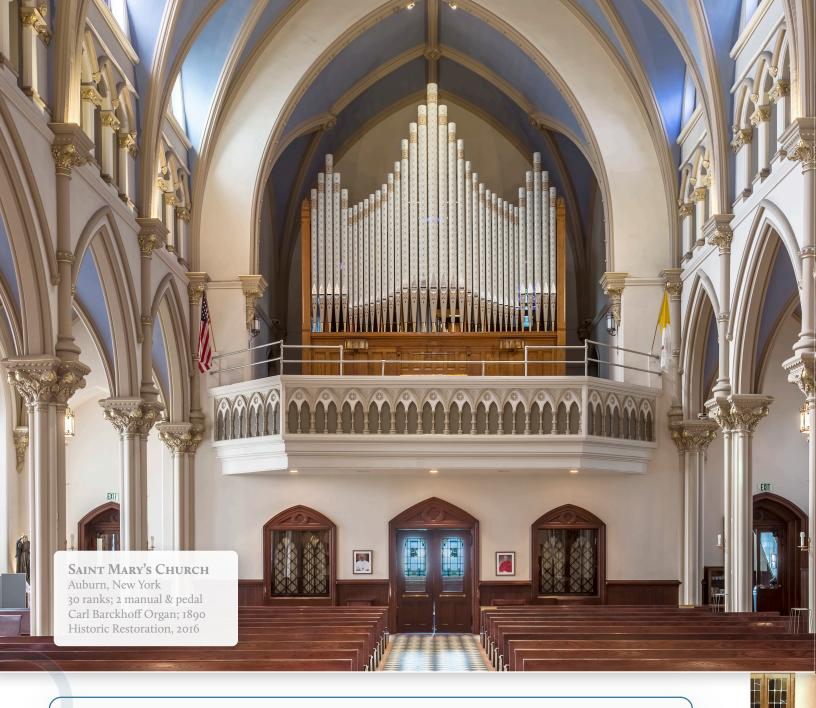
#### **VOICING ROOM:**

Tonal Director, **DUANE PRILL**, insures that every pipe receives individual attention to the onset of speech, volume, decay and tone color including all aspects of harmonic development.









# QUALITY

**FOR A PIPE ORGAN TO HAVE INTEGRITY**, each facet of design and construction must be carefully executed. Woods must be properly cured and hand selected for each application, winding systems must be stable yet yielding to give life to the music, and the expressive enclosures must be of adequate mass to soften the pipes to a whisper while incorporating properly designed louvers that will allow a majestic swelling of the sound. Wind chests must be carefully



designed and laid out to allow ample room for proper pipe speech and tonal development. Key actions must be designed using minimal mass and low friction-bearing points to ensure a sensitive and responsive touch that is truly an extension of the player. It is through this arduous attention to each detail of construction that the pipe organ will continue to stand the test of time as it earns its place as an integral part of divine worship.

#### Hope Evangelical $\nabla$ **LUTHERAN CHURCH** St. Louis, Missouri 27 ranks; 2 manual & peda Parsons Opus 49 Completed 2019 GREAT **SWELL** PEDAL MANUAL I // ENCLOSED MANUAL II // ENCLOSED UNENCLOSED 32' Resultant 16' Bourdon (ext.) 16' Gemshorn (ext., 1-12 from SW) 8' Principal 8' Geigen Principal 16' Subbass 8' Harmonic Flute 8' Chimney Flute 16' Bourdon (SW) 8' Gemshorn 8' Salicional 8' Octave 8' Bass Flute (ext.) 4' Octave 8' Celeste 8' Bourdon (SW) 4' Spitzflute 4' Principal 4' Gemshorn (ext.) 4' Traverse Flute 8' Gemshorn (GR) 2' Fifteenth 2 2/3' Nazard 4' Choral Bass (ext.) 2' Blockflute 4' Bourdon (SW) Mixture IV 8' Trumpet (SW) 1 3/5' Tierce 16' Trumpet (SW) 8' Clarinet 8' Trumpet (SW) Plein Jeu III 16' Contra Trumpet (ext.) Chimes 4' Clarion (SW) 8' Trumpet **ADDITIONAL FEATURES** 8' Oboe 4' Clarion (ext.) **Tremulant** Flexible Wind Cymbelstern **Pedal Stops on Manual Combinations** Full complement of couplers and reversibles parsonsorgans.com

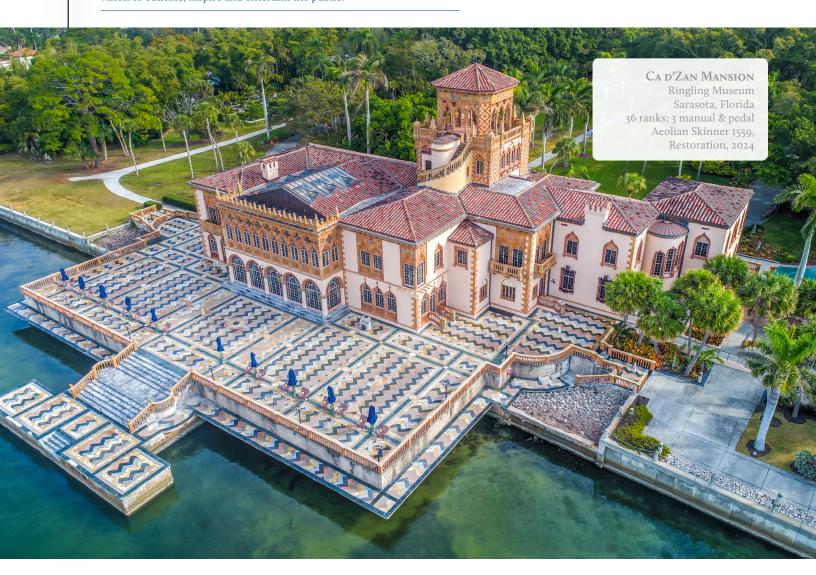
### RESTORATIVE CONSERVATION

As FAITHFUL STEWARDS, WE ARE EACH CALLED to consider prayerfully the wisdom and investments of previous generations. Even with careful maintenance, a beloved organ will wear and age over time. Unfortunately, many historic organ firms have dissolved and new parts are not available. Parsons uses historic materials, techniques, and designs to rebuild or recreate exact replacement parts, keeping your historic pipe organ original and authentic.

When the time comes for a complete restoration, Parsons is your choice. The organ is carefully disassembled, catalogued, and removed to our shop for meticulous cleaning, releathering, refinishing, and repair. Our restored organs speak and play like new and provide decades of reliable service.

#### COME ONE. COME ALL:

John and Mable Ringling's beautiful 36,000 sq. ft. mansion built in 1924. Music is integral to both the Ringling Mansion, Museum and Archives and the organ will have a pivotal role going forward in The Ringling's vision to educate, inspire and entertain the public.





CLIFTON SPRINGS SANITARIUM CHAPEL
Clifton Springs, New York
9 ranks; 2 manual & pedal
William & Charles Pilcher; Circa 1903



St. John's Lutheran Church Lyons, New York 13 ranks; 2 manual & pedal C.E. Morey; 1907

#### Museum at George Eastman

Rochester, New York 106 ranks; 5929 pipes combined 3 manual & pedal (North Organ) 4 manual & pedal (South Organ) Aeolian Skinner 1345 Relocated 2012

#### KODAK MOMENT:

Relocating and replacing a large missing section of one of the world's largest residence organs in the home of Kodak founder, George Eastman. Parsons has maintained the organ through four generations.



### **CASEWORK**

he casework is integral to the structure of the organ and to almost every aspect of the design. It acts as a protective covering while serving to blend, focus, and project the sound of the pipe organ. Our casework is built of the finest hardwoods and veneers using traditional joinery.



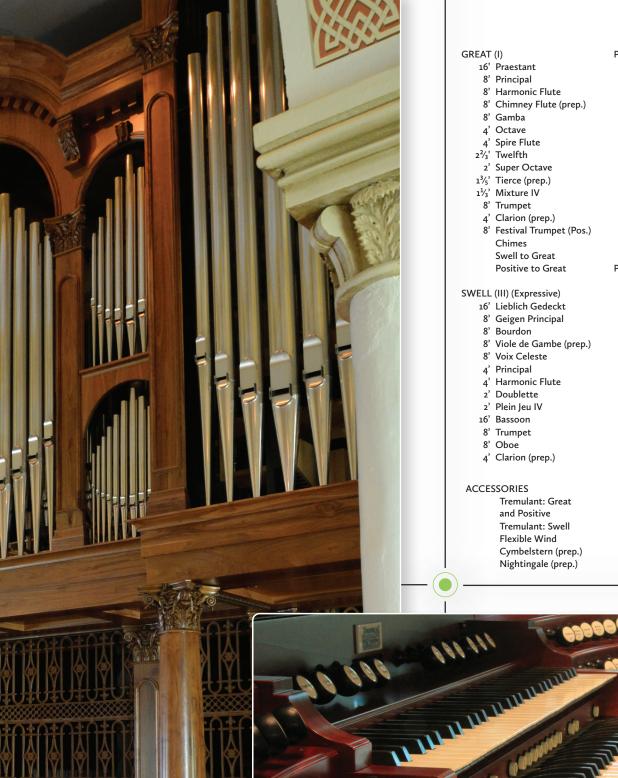
### **KEY ACTIONS**

ur key actions are carefully executed using both mechanical (tracker) action designs and electric actuators on slider and tone channel wind chests. Mechanical key actions are painstakingly designed and constructed using strong materials that have low mass. Action components of brass, aluminum and hornbeam on low-resistance bearings and trackers of carbon-fiber all contribute to provide the organist with an intimate connection to their instrument.



ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Fredericksburg, Virginia
55 ranks; 3 manual & pedal
Parsons Opus 29
Completed 2010





#### GREAT (I)

- 16' Praestant
- 8' Principal
- 8' Harmonic Flute
- 8' Chimney Flute (prep.)
- 8' Gamba
- 4' Octave
- 4' Spire Flute
- 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>' Twelfth
- 2' Super Octave
- 13/5' Tierce (prep.)
- 11/3' Mixture IV
- 8' Trumpet
- 4' Clarion (prep.)
- 8' Festival Trumpet (Pos.) Chimes

Swell to Great

Positive to Great

#### SWELL (III) (Expressive)

- 16' Lieblich Gedeckt
- 8' Geigen Principal
- 8' Bourdon
- 8' Viole de Gambe (prep.)
- 8' Voix Celeste
- 4' Principal
- 4' Harmonic Flute
- 2' Doublette
- 2' Plein Jeu IV
- 16' Bassoon
- 8' Trumpet 8' Oboe
- 4' Clarion (prep.)

#### **ACCESSORIES**

Tremulant: Great and Positive

Tremulant: Swell

Flexible Wind

Cymbelstern (prep.) Nightingale (prep.)

#### POSITIVE (II)

- 8' Viola
- 8' Gedeckt
- 8' Spitz Flute
- 8' Flute Celeste (prep.)
- 4' Principal
- 4' Koppel Flute
- 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>' Nasard
- 2' Block Flute
- 13/5' Tierce
- 11/3' Quint (prep.)
- 1' Scharff III
- 8' Cromorne
- 8' Festival Trumpet
- 4' Festival Trumpet (ext.) Swell to Positive

#### PEDAL

- 32' Contra Bourdon (derived)
- 16' Open Wood
- 16' Praestant (Gr.)
- 16' Bourdon
- 16' Lieblich Gedeckt (Sw.)
- 8' Octave
- 8' Open Flute (ext.)
- 8' Bourdon (ext.)
- 8' Gedeckt (Sw.)
- 4' Choral Bass (ext.)
- 4' Gedeckt (Sw.)
- 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>' Mixture IV (prep.)
- 32' Contra Bombarde (prep.)
- 16' Posaune
- 16' Bassoon (Sw.)
- 8' Trumpet (ext.)
- 4' Clarion (ext.)

Great to Pedal

Swell to Pedal

Positive to Pedal

#### **CRAFTSMANSHIP:**

Three manual walnut console with South American bloodwood interior. Key coverings of polished bone and ebony.

### INVESTMENT

When you are researching the pipe organ builder that is right for your church, remember that you are buying the skill of experienced craftsmen rather than just merchandise. To attain a high level of technology and quality, you must invest at a level that will allow the craftsmen freedom to do their very best for you. This investment will return itself in many decades of reliable service to your congregation.



### **PEOPLE**

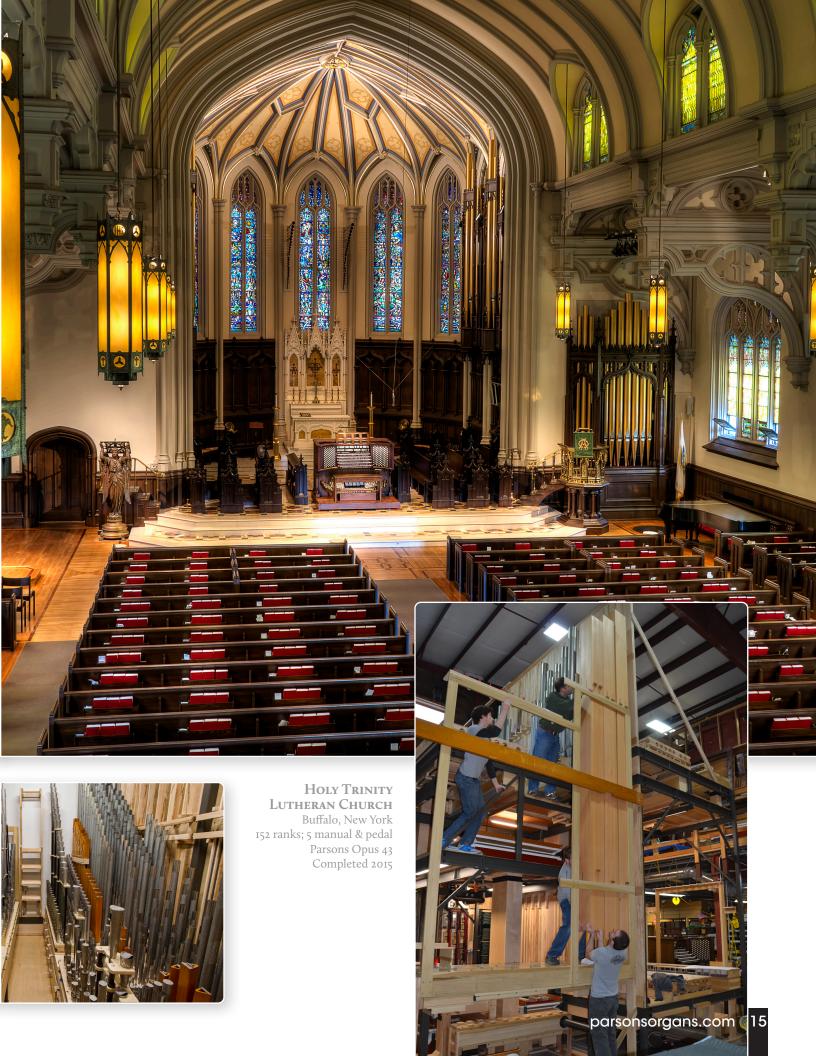
THE ARTISANS and highly skilled individuals who choose Parsons as the means of engaging their life's work do so because they have a great desire to be a part of something that transcends the ordinary. Once engaged, they experience a passion that comes only to those who are driven to create something of great beauty and who commit themselves to reach for perfection through the artistry of their craft. The people who design, build, and give voice to Parsons pipe organs find real satisfaction in their work, and in the process, become cherished colleagues and friends.











#### St. John's Church >

Fairport, New York 26 ranks; 3 manual & pedal Remanufacture

### St. Stephen's $\nabla$ Lutheran Church

Monona, Wisconsin 30 ranks; 2 manual & pedal Parsons/Rosales Collaboration Parsons Opus 22 Installed 2006

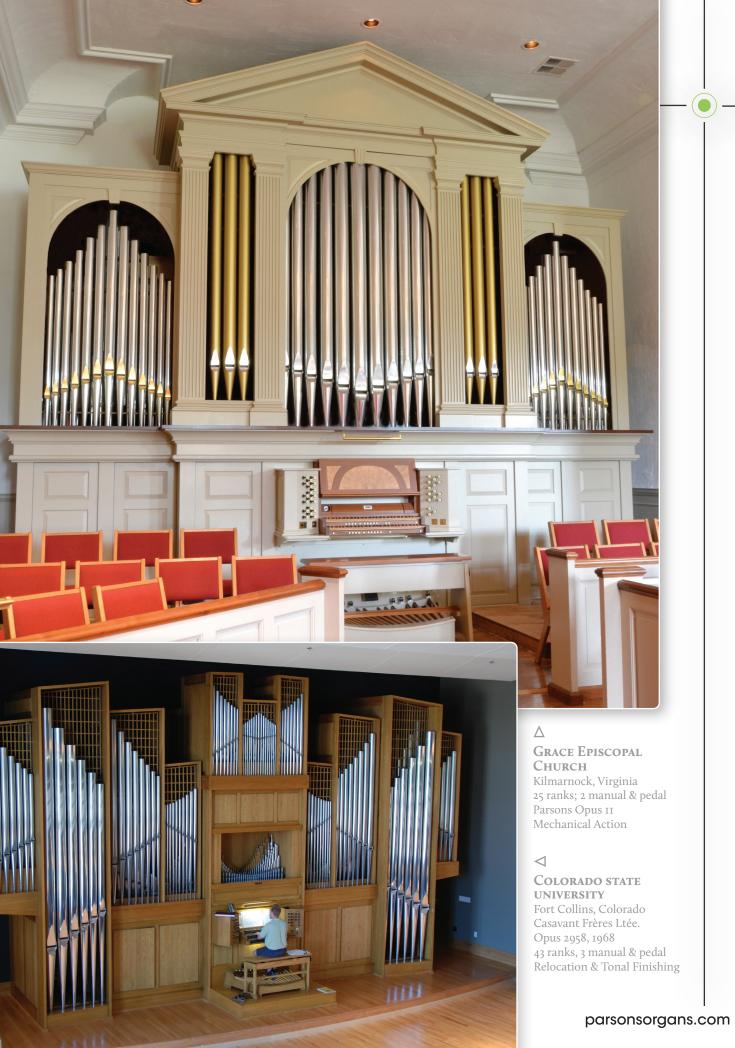


# CLIENT PROCESS

# **SUCCESSFUL PIPE ORGAN PROJECTS** are most often defined by the

communication that precedes the development of the organ specification. Most individuals or committees enter into the process of procuring a pipe organ with limited knowledge and are often overwhelmed by the extent of technical, musical, and liturgical considerations that form a necessary part of the discussion. Parsons is well aware of this critical issue and is specifically committed to a collaborative process that creates awareness while facilitating a clear understanding of every aspect of the project. Working in this fashion ensures that the resulting organ meets or exceeds the client's highest expectations.







# UNIQUE ORGAN PROJECTS

△ Muir Wood Organ: (1798-1818)

Parsons oldest organ restored was this gem found by local organ enthusiast, Paul Knoke. We thoroughly enjoy challenges of all shapes, sizes, and age to grow our knowledge of this incredible instrument



△ THE AUERGLASS ORGAN, New York City, NY Mechanical Action, foot pumped organ, with a split keyboard requiring two people to create music. Conceived by Tauba Auerbach and Cameron Mesirow.

### **EDUCATION**

PARSONS REGULARLY SPONSORS EDUCATIONAL EVENTS, because we believe that the future of the industry hinges on education. We regularly host open-house receptions for the general public and the American Guild of Organists' sponsored Pipe Organ Encounters program, and we offer hands-on demonstrations for schools and events using our full-scale sectional model organ.

We maintain memberships in the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America (APOBA), the International Society of Organbuilders (ISO), and the Organ Historical Society (OHS). Many of our staff members belong to the American Guild of Organists (AGO) and the American Institute of Organbuilders (AIO).

Our commitment to ongoing education allows us to learn about new products, materials, and techniques in organbuilding and keeps us abreast of current trends in music and church liturgy. Maintaining a collaborative relationship with organists and other organbuilders is paramount to the future of the pipe organ and our craft.



manual tracker pipe organ



#### $\triangleleft$

#### CORNELL UNIVERSITY Anabel Taylor Chapel Ithaca, New York

Ithaca, New York GoArt/Parsons/Lowe 41 ranks; 2 manual & pedal Mechanical Action Installed 2010

Each new project brings its own set of challenges, especially when a project involves three primary collaborators working for a University that demands perfection. Working carefully through each new challenge, the final result speaks for itself as to the dedication to quality brought by each party.

### **CONSOLES**

#### THE CONSOLE IS THE ORGANIST'S

interface with the instrument. Our designs are elegant and ergonomically efficient, with all functional components, stops and couplers located in logical placements. As in case design, consoles are built to be lasting pieces of furniture that complement their surroundings. Normal features include bone and ebony keyboards, combination actions with multiple levels of memory, balanced expression and crescendo shoes, adjustable benches, and MIDI capability. Every detail from the indicator lights to the mirror and key desk lighting is carefully executed.

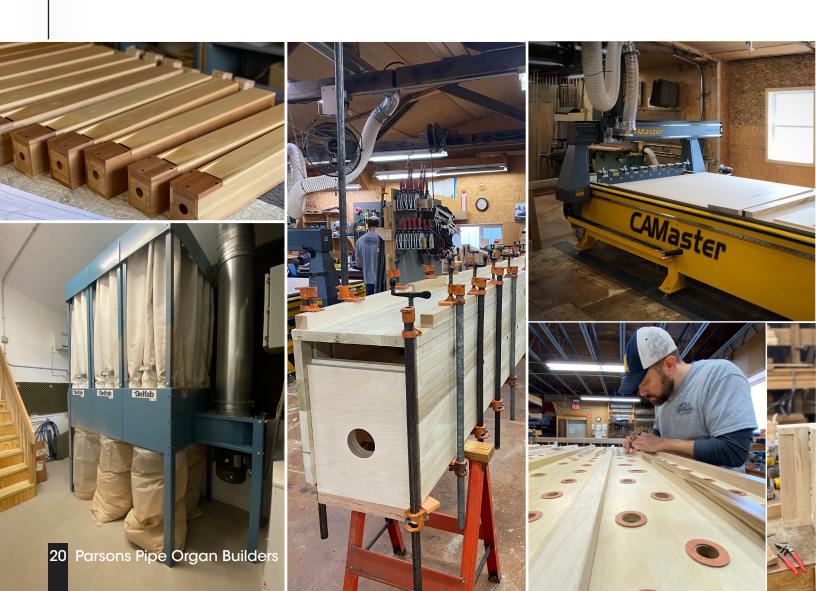


# **OUR WORKSHOP**

#### CANANDAIGUA, NY

THE BUILDING AND RESTORING OF PIPE ORGANS is completed in our 22,000 sq. ft. workshop. Our fully equipped woodshop allows us to build intricate parts, from consoles to casework. Our state-of-the-art CNC machine ensures parts are built with 100% accuracy. The 32' high erecting room allows us to assemble and fully test both new organs and complete restorations. The sound insulated voicing room is equipped with two voicing machines, each built in a different style action. The design room is equipped with four CAD stations for the 3D design and creation of workshop drawings. Ample storage areas allow us to retain vintage pipework and other components for re-purposing. Our extensive manufacturing facility enables us to provide essential services to both new organ customers as well as our service clients, where replacement parts for century old organs can be custom made, ensuring the ongoing performance of the organ. We expect our instruments to serve their congregation for hundreds of years. There is no substitute for quality construction performed by skilled craftspersons working together to create these instruments. Having a relationship with each client ensures our high level of accountability and pride in everything we do.

Personalized service, quality workmanship and customer satisfaction are key elements in our business. Each instrument is custom designed by incorporating this merging of science and art known as organbuilding.







### DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ The expression "pulling out all the stops" was originally a pipe organ term used to give the organ its maximum volume.
- Pipe organs have existed in their current form since the 14th century. According to some, it was the most complex man-made device before the Industrial Revolution. Some records indicate they've been around since the 1<sup>st</sup> century!
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart called the organ the "King of Instruments" because it is, by far, the world's largest and most complex instrument. It is an orchestra in the hands of a single player.
- Organ pipes are made from a variety of woods and metals; from spruce, pine and oak, to zinc, tin and Ivead. The species of wood and the composition of the metal (mixtures of lead and tin) are carefully chosen to provide the desired tone.



















# TUNING & MAINTENANCE

LIKE ALL FINE INSTRUMENTS, pipe organs are sensitive to changes in temperature and humidity, and require seasonal tuning and maintenance. Parsons uses a scientific approach to tuning to bring out the very best from your instrument. Our service staff keeps detailed records about each organ, so that all mechanical or electrical concerns are resolved effectively and quickly. Parsons has become the premier tuning and service company in New York State, maintaining more than 200 organs annually.

While the organ's sound may come largely from its pipes, a mechanical or electrical failure in the organ can be disastrous. Through a one-time evaluation or an ongoing relationship, Parsons can determine the overall health of your instrument and set out timetables for maintenance and repair needs. While advance planning is always best, our shop is fully equipped to respond to your needs quickly in the case of an emergency.







## **OUR HISTORY**

#### ESTABLISHED 1921

**FIVE GENERATIONS AGO, IN THE LATE 1800'S,** Gideon Levi Parsons, a musician, settled in Massachusetts to apprentice with noted organbuilder, John Wesley Steere. He married J. W. Steere's niece and had two sons, Bryant and Richard. His career as a flue pipe voicer lasted with John Steere, his son, Frank, and later with another well-known organ builder, Ernest Skinner, who eventually purchased J. W. Steere & Son Organ Co.

Both of Gideon's sons apprenticed with the Steere firm. Bryant Gideon Parsons continued in organbuilding and, with his general knowledge of the trade, particularly with the "new" technology of electricity in organ actions, installed many of Skinner's instruments, including the large organ at Kilbourn Hall at The Eastman School of Music. Prior to WWI, Bryant was curator of instruments at Yale University. Following the war, Bryant and his wife settled in Rochester, New York, where he had installed many organs previously and recognized the musical and cultural opportunities that community had to offer. After brief employment with Charles M. Topliff, Organbuilder, he formed his own company in 1921 and continued to focus on service work and historic restorations. Bryant had two children, Bryant, Jr. and Bina.

Bryant G. Parsons, Jr. apprenticed with his father at an early age and with the M.P. Möller Organ Company. He returned to the firm following WWII and, in 1954, they incorporated as Bryant G. Parsons & Son, Inc. Bryant, Sr., retired circa 1960. The company relocated to Penfield, New York, and continued with service and restoration work, as well as building small pipe organs.

Bryant Jr.'s two sons, Richard and Calvin, apprenticed with the firm for many years prior to receiving their degrees in electronics. They purchased the firm in 1979 upon their father's retirement. Two of Richard's sons, Matthew and Timothy have now joined the company.

The operation has been reorganized and expanded and now includes the design and building of custom pipe organs. Two instruments were built in the Penfield workshop prior to relocating to larger facilities in scenic Bristol Valley, Canandaigua, New York, in 1986. Since then, the company has expanded its operation to major rebuilding and remanufacturing projects, as well as continuing to build new and larger instruments nationwide.

Parsons Pipe Organ Builders uses threedimensional computer modeling to explore design propositions prior to creating working drawings for the construction of its pipe organs.





BRYANT SR. & BRYANT JR. PARSONS



RICHARD & CALVIN PARSONS



MATTHEW & TIMOTHY PARSONS

