Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc.

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Our Philosophy

Our Tonal Philosophy draws inspiration from admired English and American organ building traditions of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. While influenced by past traditions, our instruments are designed and voiced in a style that is distinctly our own. We feel a strong responsibility to produce pipe organs that will support liturgies with elegance and style. Our organs achieve this goal by offering organists a wide variety of tonal and dynamic possibilities for creative and sensitive service playing. We strive to build instruments that possess an inherent majesty and grandeur and are capable of a heroic effect. Our instruments provide strong foundation for the support of choral and congregational singing, in addition to being outstanding vehicles for the performance of organ concert literature in a variety of community events.

1. CANYON CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
   Richardson, TX
   3 manual and pedal; 58 rank electro-pneumatic slider windchests.

2. FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
   Jefferson City, MO; 3 manual and pedal; 46 rank electro-pneumatic slider windchests.

3. WILLIAM JEWELL COLLEGE
   Liberty, MO; 3 manual and pedal; 55 rank electro-pneumatic slider windchests.
Our design and tonal philosophy is to create and voice instruments in a style that is distinctly our own, with no pretense of copying one school or historical design. Our goal is to blend general contemporary American ideas with our own concepts based on research into other organ-building traditions.

New Organs

A particular source of pride in our new instruments are the reed ranks, built and voiced in our shop, that have become legendary for their consistent timbre and tuning stability. Our new organs feature Quimby Pipe Organs' Blackinton-style electro-pneumatic slider windchests, which allow the pipes to speak clearly and practically instantaneously. Our instruments are designed to be “service-friendly” – to provide easy access of tuning and maintenance, giving dependable and reliable service for many generations to come. Though some of our instruments are very large, built for prominent churches, we also pride ourselves on being able to tailor our instruments to suit the needs of smaller churches which may have limited budgets.

St. John’s Episcopal Church, Roanoke, VA;
4 manual and pedal; 74 rank electro-pneumatic slider windchests.
Photo by Bill Hazlegrove

Our History

Established in 1970 and located in Warrensburg, Missouri, Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc. began as a tuning and maintenance firm, and developed into one of the premier organ building firms in the country. We remain active in the service and maintenance trade, which we believe is an essential part of organ building. Our first comprehensive new pipe organ was built in 1987 and consisted of three-manuals and 42 ranks. Since that installation, we have built pipe organs of all sizes, from small two-manuals up to our current magnum opus of five-manuals and 155 ranks.

Eric Johnson checking voicing of a Skinner Oboe from Opus 516 for St. Paul’s Cathedral, St. Paul, MN.

Restoration and Tuning Services

Our restorations have ranged from many small tracker-action organs in Missouri, to the rebuilding of the famous Æolian-Skinner four-manual, 151-rank Opus 150A located in The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, New York City. Restoration projects offer us the opportunity to observe and document successful approaches of other master builders, ultimately influencing our own work. We are known for respecting the historic integrity of existing instruments, while taking into consideration the wishes of our clients concerning any restoration or rebuild of an instrument. At present we maintain nearly 200 instruments in our geographic area.

Before and after photo of the Pedal Mixture from The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York, NY during restoration in our pipe shop in Warrensburg.

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