



Andover

ORGAN COMPANY

P.O. Box 36 ♦ Methuen, MA 01844-0036

Telephone: 978-686-9600 ♦ Toll Free: 888-Organ Co ♦ Fax: 978-685-8208

Website: www.andoverorgan.com ♦ E-mail: andover4u@andoverorgan.com

NEWSLETTER

2018

Duxbury Simmons Dedicated

After an absence of nine months, followed by a year of dutifully accompanying services, the newly rebuilt 1853 Simmons organ at First Parish Church in Duxbury, Massachusetts was dedicated in a gala candlelight concert on November 4th.

Andover first rebuilt the organ in 1967, enlarging the short-compass Swell and Pedal divisions to full-compass and adding new pipework voiced in the neo-Baroque style of the day. Our 2017 rebuilding returned the organ to Simmons' original style and voicing. We slightly increased its tonal resources, using pipes from a salvaged 1852 Simmons organ and some new stops voiced in Simmons' style. To accommodate these additions the case was expanded from three sections to five.

The church was packed for the dedication concert! The organ's rebuilding was the cover feature article in the May 2018 issue of *The American Organist* magazine and the church had ordered 500 color reprints to pass out with the concert programs. They ran out.

First Parish Music Director Edwin Swanborn, joined by oboe, English horn, brass quintet, the Zamir Chorale of Boston, and guest organist Brian Jones, presented a varied program which showcased the many uses of the instrument. The concert opened with two Gabrielli Canzoni for brass and organ. The 50-member Zamir Chorale, directed by Dr. Joshua Jacobson, which specializes in Jewish liturgical music, sang two choral settings by Italian Jewish composer Salamone Rossi (1570-1630) for double choir and double organs (also using the church's one manual continuo organ, played by Andrew Mattfeld) and three choral settings from the German Synagogue liturgy by Louis Lewandowski (1821-1894).



Swanborn played three pieces by German Baroque composer Johann Ludwig Krebs for organ and obligato instruments - oboe, English horn, and piccolo trumpet, respectively. His solo organ selections included the C.H.H. Parry "Chorale Fantasia on The Old Hundredth," the J.S. Bach "Prelude & Fugue in B minor" (BWV 544), and the Felix Mendelssohn "Prelude & Fugue in C minor" (Op.37, No.1).

Brian Jones, Emeritus Director of Music at Trinity Church in Boston, who played the dedicatory recital following the 1967 rebuild, provided a musical link to the organ's past. He grew up in Duxbury and began organ lessons on the Simmons while in junior high school. In memory of his first organ teacher, James Chandler Ingalls, who was the First Parish organist from 1900 to 1966, Brian played one of Ingalls' favorite pieces, the sprightly "Offertoire in A flat major" by Edward Mason Reed (1847-1936). The last time he had played the piece on the Simmons was for Ingalls' funeral in 1976.

The congregation sang two hymns: "All Creatures of the Earth and Sky" (*Lasst uns erfreuen*), accompanied by Brian

Jones, and the VaughanWilliams setting of “All people that on earth do dwell” (Old Hundredth) for choir, congregation and brass. The concert ended with the Concertato for organ and brass on “Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott” (A mighty Fortress is our God) by Czech American composer Václav Nelhýbel. A reception followed in the parish hall.

Here and There

OHS 2018 Convention

Over 400 people attended the OHS 2018 Convention in the Rochester, NY area. During the convention, two 19th Century organs renovated by Andover were heard in recitals by distinguished organists.

♦ On July 31, **Peter DuBois** played the 2 manual 1876 E. & G. G. Hook & Hastings, Opus 829, at the First Presbyterian Church in Caledonia, NY. Mr. DuBois is Music Director/Organist at the Third Presbyterian Church of Rochester, NY, and host of the nationally-syndicated radio program, “With Heart and Voice.” His recital featured 19th century works inspired by Bach.

The Caledonia organ was originally built for the Theological Seminary in Andover, Massachusetts and later moved, without its case, to the Baptist Church in Clinton, Connecticut. Since the organ had no case when we renovated and relocated it to Caledonia in 1987 (AOC Opus R-273), we married it to an elegant 1841 Greek Revival case, originally built by William Stevens for the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Roxbury, Massachusetts. The 16-rank instrument, which replaced an electronic, looks and sounds perfectly at home in the Caledonia church!

♦ On August 2, **Dr. Jonathan William Moyer**, Professor of Organ at Oberlin Conservatory and Director of Music at Church of the Covenant in Cleveland, played the 1840 Henry Erben organ at Grace Episcopal Church in Lyons, NY. For his recital Dr. Moyer chose European and American pieces composed during the 1840s, when the organ was built, which beautifully demonstrated the instrument’s colors.



The Lyons organ originally had one manual. In 1915, Clarence Morey added a Swell division and a 25-note Pedal Bourbon, using second-hand pipes and parts. In the 1950’s the organ

became unplayable and a donated Hammond organ took its place. To make room for the speaker cabinet, several ranks were removed from the Great windchest. Canon Cyril V. Roberts, the priest at Grace Church and later Chaplain of the Eastman School of Music, spearheaded the effort to restore the organ.

When Andover restored the organ to playable condition in 1966 (AOC Opus R-91), only five of the original eight Erben ranks remained – 8’ Open Diapason, 8’ Dulciana, 4’ Octave, 2 2/3’ Twelfth, and the 8’ Stopped Diapason (which Morey had moved to the Swell and Andover restored to the Great). Further work by Andover in 1977 included replacing some missing stops and extending the Pedal Bourdon to 27 notes. Sadly, the dwindled congregation held its final service in December 2016. The church is now a mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester and used by the Rural & Migrant Ministry.

Susan Sturkie

♦ **In October 2018** Susan Sturkie marked her 30th anniversary as organist at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Columbia, SC. During her tenure, which began in 1988, she oversaw the 1993 installation of Andover Opus 105 and its completion, with the addition of seven prepared-for stops, in 2006.

Susan graduated from St. Andrews Presbyterian College (now St. Andrews University) in Laurinburg, NC, with a B.M. in Music Education, studying both organ and voice. After graduating, she taught elementary school music at Ft. Bragg and Ft. Jackson Dependents Schools. Besides her church duties, she serves as Treasurer and Membership Chair of the Greater Columbia AGO Chapter and Treasurer of the Association of Lutheran Musicians of SC. Susan and her husband Dick are the parents of one son, Trey. Happy anniversary Susan!

Inspirations CD

♦ **Katelyn Emerson's** new recording, *Inspirations*, featuring Andover Opus 114, at Christ Lutheran Church in Baltimore, MD is now available from ProOrgano recordings.



The album features the following works:

Rachel Laurin: Finale, Op. 78 (2017)

Horatio Parker: III Allegretto (from Organ Sonata in E-Flat, Op. 65)

Josef Rheinberger: Sonata VIII e-moll, Op. 132

Dieterich Buxtehude: Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, BuxWV 223

Edward Bairstow: Meditation (1907)

Nicolas de Grigny: A solis ortus (1699)

Jean Langlais: Sonate en trio (1967)

Maurice Duruflé: Prélude et Fugue sur le nom d'ALAIN, Op. 7 (1942)

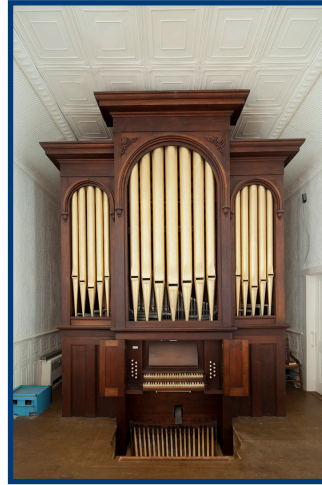
CD and MP3 versions may be purchased from the ProOrgano website: <https://proorgano.com/product/inspirations-compact-disc-katelyn-emerson/>

Two 150th Organ Birthdays

It is always heartening for us when an instrument we have renovated or restored reaches a milestone birthday which is celebrated by its owners. September 2018 saw two such events in Vermont.

♦ On September 14, the **Greensboro United Church of Christ** in Greensboro, Vermont presented a concert to celebrate the 150th birthday of its 2/12 1868 William A.

Johnson organ, Op.253. Musicians Bronwyn Masse, Karen Miller, Sonia Dunbar, Gina Jenkins, and Tom Anastasio demonstrated the many ways the organ has served the church: as a solo instrument, and as accompaniment for hymns, soloists or musical groups. A short history of the organ in the church was also presented.



Originally installed in the Evangelical Congregational Church in Athol, MA, the instrument was moved to Greensboro in 1916. Andover refurbished the organ in 1972 (AOC Opus R-152) and has lovingly cared for it ever since. In early 2019 we will re-leather the reservoir.

♦ On September 23, four members of the Vermont Chapter AGO played a concert celebrating the 150th birthday of the 2/18 1868 William Nutting organ in the **United Federated Church** in Williamstown, Vermont. Organists Donah Beattie, Marilyn Polson, Lynette Combs and Adam Schneider played Classic, Romantic and Contemporary pieces to demonstrate the organ's versatility. Following the program, a plaque was presented by the AGO.

William Nutting, Jr (1815-1869), was Vermont's first native-born organbuilder. The Williamstown organ, originally built for the Unitarian Church in Keene, New Hampshire, is his only surviving two-manual instrument. In 1909



it was relocated to the Methodist Episcopal Church in Bellows Falls, Vermont. In 1938 it was moved in a logging truck to the Williamstown church. In 2004-2005 Andover

completely restored the organ (AOC Opus R-405), and slightly reconfigured its interior layout to permit better tuning access. While the organ was removed for restoration, the organ chamber was rebuilt and enlarged under the supervision of church member Conrad Beattie. A rededication concert was held in June 2005.

Transitions

♦ **Leo Abbott** retired as Director of Music and Organist at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston on September 1, 2018, after serving there for over 32 years. He was honored at an August 19 reception and named Director Emeritus.



A graduate of the Boston Archdiocesan Choir School, Cambridge, and the Chaloff School of Music, Boston, Leo studied with Theodore Marier, George Faxon, Clarence Watters, and Flor Peeters in organ; Naji Hakim in improvisation; and Julius Chal-

off in piano. He holds the American Guild of Organists (AGO) Fellow and Choirmaster certificates, won first prize in several international and national competitions, and was a finalist at the Grand Prix de Chartres in 1984. He has performed throughout the United States and in France, Belgium, and Ireland.

When Leo started at Holy Cross in 1986, the Cathedral's historic 102 rank 1875 E. & G.G Hook & Hastings organ was virtually unplayable, and had a second-hand theater organ console. Thanks to his untiring efforts, annual benefit concerts have been held to fund the organ's ongoing restoration. In 2003 we upgraded the organ's electrical systems and built a new console, patterned after the missing original. In 2011 we repaired the largest pipes of the Pedal 32' Contra Bourdon. In 2014 we replaced the missing Choir 8' Rohr Flute. Last April we partially disassembled and covered the organ prior to the cathedral's interior restoration (see *"We Have You Covered"* on page 7)

♦ On September 14, **Richard J. Clark** assumed the new joint position of Director of Music of the Archdiocese of Boston, and Director of Music and Organist of the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. As Director of Music of the Archdiocese, Richard will oversee music at archdiocesan liturgies and provide guidance to parish music programs.

Prior to his Cathedral appointment, Richard served Saint Cecilia Parish in Boston for 28 years where he oversaw a diverse and thriving parish music program. He also served Boston College and the Jesuit Community as Organist and Cantor at Saint Mary's Chapel for more than 14 years. Ad-

ditionally, he has served the Archdiocese in numerous liturgical projects, conferences, and liturgies.



As a composer, his liturgical, choral, and organ works have been performed worldwide and are published by World Library Publications, Lorenz/The Sacred Music Press, CanticaNOVA Publications, RJC Cecilia Music, and Corpus Christi Watershed. As a performer and composer his eclectic

appearances have included St. Patrick's Cathedral (NY), Saint-Eustache (Paris), the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (D. C.), the Celebrity Series of Boston, Fenway Park, and the New York Songwriters Circle at NYC's historic "The Bitter End."

Richard earned degrees from the Berklee College of Music and the Boston Conservatory, where he studied with James David Christie. He resides with his wife and four children in Milton, Massachusetts. We look forward to working with Richard in the ongoing maintenance and restoration of the cathedral organ.

♦ **Lizbeth Burgos** joined our team in June 2018 as an apprentice woodworker. Born in the Dominican Republic, Lizbeth grew up here in Lawrence. An interest in architecture and design led her to enroll in the carpentry program at the Greater Lawrence Technical School, where we met her at a job fair for seniors. Outgoing and energetic, Lizbeth has been a great addition to the



Andover team, learning the fine art of organ-specific woodworking under mentor David Zarges. She has already been involved in chest-building and action parts for our projects in Lowell and Natick. A sign of Lizbeth's high levels of self-motivation and hard work is that while working for Andover full time, she is also attending classes at Middlesex Community College.

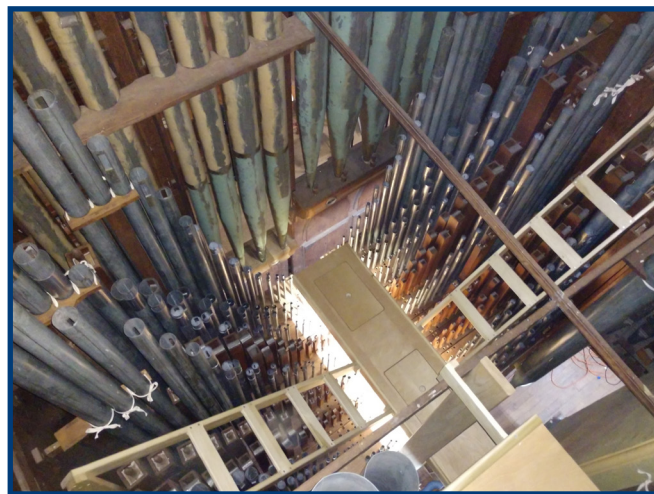
A Sleeping Giant Awakens

♦ This summer we completed the first stage in the restoration of the 1906 electro-pneumatic Jesse Woodberry organ at **St. Patrick's Church in Lowell**, Massachusetts. With 3 manuals and 56 ranks, including a Pedal 32' Contra Bourdon, it is the largest instrument built by Woodberry and the largest pipe organ in the City of Lowell. The organ had been unplayable for nearly a decade. The 1960s replacement console was in a sorry state, with most of its drawknobs broken off, due to deterioration of their plastic parts.

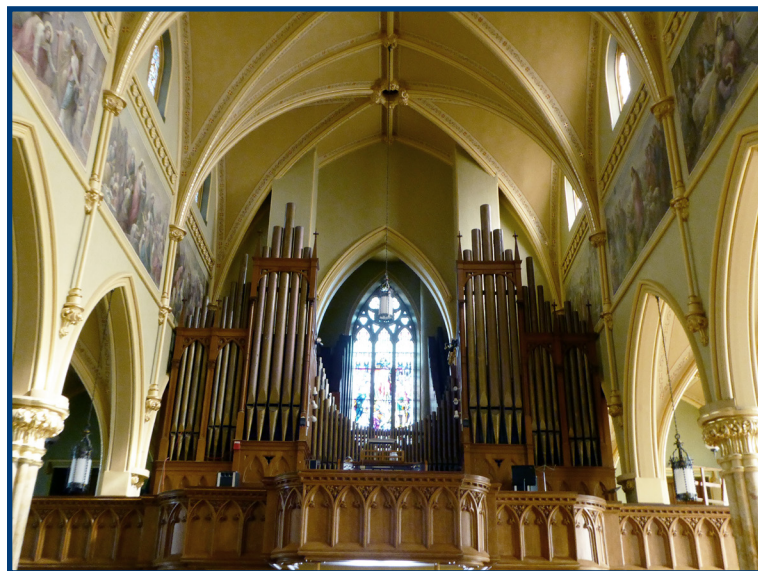


The restoration is being done in three stages. Stage 1, completed in summer 2018, included refurbishing the console, replacing its drawknobs and tilting tablets with

new Harris units, rebuilding the keyboards and pedal-board, installing a new solid-state control system and combination action, new LED music and pedal lights, as well as updating the organ's wiring to current electrical codes.



At the church's request, the problematic Choir ventil chest, which had 598 individual leathered pneumatics, one for each pipe, was replaced with a new Blackington-style, pneumatic pallet slider chest. This new chest has only 61 pallets and primaries that use leather. The original Woodberry toeboards and rackboards were retained and adapted for the new slider chest. The restored Choir division sounds quite impressive in the room, almost like a small Great division! You can listen to it in a short video posted on Andover's Facebook and YouTube pages.



Also included in this stage was the restoration of the Choir division and the smaller Pedal stops (16' Bourdon, 8' Flute, 8' Violoncello). The pipes were brought to our shop for cleaning and repairs, then adjusted for evenness of speech and tone. The ventil-style Pedal windchests were releathered and fitted with new primary magnets.

Stage 2, now underway and scheduled for completion next summer, is the rebuilding of the Swell division. Stage 3, to be completed in 2020, will restore the Great and the 32' and 16' Pedal stops in the tower behind it. The façade pipes will be stripped and primed by AOC, then repainted and stenciled by Canning Studios.

Completed Projects

♦ **Christ Lutheran Church**, Natick, MA – The 2 manual, 18 rank 1874 Wm. Johnson & Son, Opus 401, in Christ Church was originally built for the Odd Fellows Hall in Haverhill, MA. Andover purchased and removed it in 1972, just days before the Hall was destroyed by arson. We rebuilt the organ, with a new façade and some tonal changes, and installed it in Christ Church in 1977. In 2012, we added two stops on blank toeboards which had been prepared for eventual additions.

Aside from the 2012 additions, no major work had been done on the organ since its 1977 installation. After four decades of service at Christ Church, some of its 142-year-old wooden key action parts were wearing out and breaking. There was also noticeable side play in the manual keys, from key bushings wearing down after decades of playing.

We rebushed the keys and installed new wooden squares and trackers, making no other alterations. We also rebuilt the pedal couplers to better match the key spacing of the 30-note concave radiating pedalboard installed during the 1977 rebuild. The work began in June 2018 and was completed in August. Michael Eaton was the project manager.

♦ **Second Congregational Church**, Attleboro, MA – Restorative repairs to the Swell pallets and Schwimmer of the 3 manual, 44 rank 1968 Schlicker organ.

♦ **Newton Highlands**, MA, Congregational Church – This summer we removed, cleaned, and repaired all the Swell pipes of the 1924 electro-pneumatic Hook & Hastings organ, Opus 2494; stage 2 of a four-stage rebuilding project. The chests were covered and sealed so repairs could be made to the Swell chamber's brick walls, which had spalled from water leaks. During these repairs it was discovered that a chimney along one of the walls is structurally unsound and needs rebuilding. Unfortunately, this work could not be scheduled until spring 2019. So, the reinstallation of the Swell pipes has been postponed until then.

♦ **Saint Anthony of Padua**, Allston, MA – The church has a 2-manual, 22 rank 1908 Hook-Hastings, Opus 2179, on slider chests, which was electrified by W.W. Laws in the 1940s. In February 2018 we releathered the Pedal slider motors and the Great/Pedal reservoir.

♦ **First Congregational Church**, Rowley, MA – The church's 1896 Geo. S. Hutchings tracker (Opus 405) was

electrified in 1968 with new windchests and console. In January 2018, we replaced the 1968 tripper-style stop and combination action with new, all-electric stop keys and a 10-level solid-state combination action.

♦ **Christ Episcopal Church**, Rochdale, MA – Has a 1920s Hook & Hastings, which was rebuilt, enchambered and enlarged to 13 ranks in the 1950s. We restored the Pedal Bourdon pipes and releathered their stoppers in August 2018.

♦ **Edwards Church**, UCC, Framingham, MA – Edwards Church has a 3-manual, 35 rank 1850 George Stevens tracker, the largest extant organ by that builder. In 1905, James Cole added a Pedal 16' Bourdon on a tubular-pneumatic windchest behind the organ. After 113 years, the Bourdon chest's leather pneumatics had deteriorated, causing dead notes. In summer 2018, we releathered the windchest, repaired the Bourdon pipes and releathered their stoppers.

♦ **The Kent School**, Kent, CT – The school's chapel has a much-rebuilt 3 manual tracker in its chapel. Originally a 2-manual Hook & Hastings, built for a Universalist Church in Concord, NH (Opus 2136, 1907), the instrument was moved to the school by Jeremy Cooper in 1990. Cooper began a rebuilding and enlarging process, which was completed by Roy Redman as his Opus 75 in 2003. A few years ago, the school's chapel organist, Barbara Harris Kovacs, asked us to assume the maintenance of the instrument and devise a multi-staged plan to address some mechanical and tonal issues which were exacerbated by unsympathetic maintenance. In the second stage, in Spring 2018, we rebuilt the Choir key action, adding balancier pneumatics to lighten the pallet pluck in the lowest notes, reset and reregulated the manual key actions, and cleaned the Great Trumpet.

Reservoirs Releathered

♦ **Allston, MA** – St. Anthony of Padua
Hook & Hastings, Opus 2179, 1908, 2-22

♦ **Attleboro, MA** – Second Congregational Church
Schlicker, 1968, 3-44 (Swell Schwimmer)

♦ **North Danville, NH** – Union Church
Wm. B. D. Simmons, ca. 1855, 1-7 (reservoir & feeders)

We Have You Covered!

We are often asked to cover or wrap an organ to protect it during a church renovation project. This is a wise precaution! Left unprotected, an instrument can be invaded by dust, paint splatters or, worse, damaged by plaster or tools falling from above. As is often said, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” This year we protected three sizeable instruments.

♦ **Church of the Pilgrimage, Plymouth MA**— This historic church, where Andover’s Michael Eaton is the organist, has been undergoing extensive exterior and interior renovations, in preparation for the 2020 celebration of the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower and the founding of the Plymouth Colony.



wrapped and stored the moveable console in the narthex prior to the repainting of the sanctuary interior, which was completed in late May.

♦ **First Church of Christ, Scientist, Concord, NH** – In January 2018, we covered the 32 rank 1904 Hutchings-Votey organ, prior to the repair and repainting of the front walls and ceiling in the church. We removed all the Great and



Pedal pipes, except for the largest wooden basses, covered their windchests with plastic sheet and plywood, closed and sealed the Swell and Choir expression shutters, and built a protective crate over the console. After removing all 105 façade pipes, and an even greater number of “dummy” canisters behind and above them, we covered and sealed the entire organ. All the removed pipes were stored on site in trays or under coverings, and reinstalled in June.

♦ **Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston** - In February 2018, with the skilled assistance of the Organ Clearing House crew, we partially disassembled and wrapped the Cath-

edral’s historic 1875 E. & G.G. Hook & Hastings, Opus 801, prior to a year-long interior restoration and repainting. For



their protection, we removed 53 of its 101 ranks: all the unenclosed pipes from the three Great and two main Pedal windchests, as well as the Tuba Mirabilis, the 53 façade pipes and 50 “dummy” canisters atop the case.

In all, over 2,500 of the organ’s

5,292 pipes. The Swell, Choir, and large Pedal wooden ranks were left in place, and the entire organ covered with reinforced, fire-retardant polyethylene sheets. We filled 72 pipe trays and trucked everything to climate-controlled storage, the first time that these pipes have left the building! After cleaning and repairs, they will be reinstalled early next year, prior to the cathedral’s reopening for Holy Week and Easter 2019.



On The Floor

♦ **Second Congregational Church, Attleboro, MA** – Restorative repairs to the 3/44 1968 Schlicker organ.

♦ **Newton Highlands, MA, Congregational Church** – Rebuilding the Choir division of the 1924 electro-pneumatic Hook & Hastings, Opus 2494. Stage 3 of a 4-stage project.

♦ **Harvard Historical Society, Harvard, MA** – Restoration of the 1/13 1870 Geo. Stevens & Co. tracker organ, in preparation for its 150th birthday in 2020.

♦ **Christ Episcopal Church, Seattle, WA** – Restoration and relocation of the 2/16 1874 E. & G.G. Hook & Hastings tracker organ, Opus 764, from the former St. John’s Episcopal Church, Taunton, MA. Installation in early 2021.

♦ **Greensboro, VT, United Church of Christ** – Restoration of the reservoir of the 2/12 1868 Wm. A. Johnson, Opus 253.

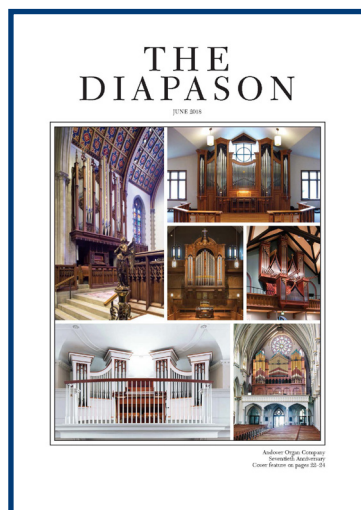
♦ **Immaculate Conception Church, Portsmouth, NH** – New multi-level solid-state combination action.



**P.O. Box 36
Methuen, MA 01844-0036**

To commemorate our 70th anniversary, Matthew Bellocchio has written a detailed history of the company, its key people, and its innovative work, which appeared as the cover feature in the June 2018 issue of *The Diapason*. A copy of this illustrated article may be seen on our website:

[www.andoverorgan.com/
pdfs/diapason-june-2018-article-andover.pdf](http://www.andoverorgan.com/pdfs/diapason-june-2018-article-andover.pdf)



Address Service Requested

Celebrating our 70th year!

Andover Organ 70th Anniversary

♦ **Seventy years ago**, in 1948, Thomas W. Buyers (1923-2012), a former Henry Pilcher's Sons Organ Company employee who lived in Lawrence, Massachusetts, started an organ company in his home. For several years, Tom and his wife had attended the annual Organ Institute organized by Arthur Howes, head of the organ department at the Peabody Conservatory, and held each summer on the campus of Phillips Academy in nearby Andover, Massachusetts. Howes had founded the Institute to help spread an interest among American organists in early music and performance practices, as well as the building of new organs that could authentically render that music.

Byers chose the name "Andover Organ Company" for its prestigious association with the Organ Institute's venue and because of the advantages, in the pre-inter-

net days of telephone directories, of appearing near the top of the alphabetical company listings. He used the opening line of Psalm 98, "Cantate Domino Canticum Novum," (Sing to the Lord a New Song) as the company motto, which still appears on Andover's letterhead. This underscored his philosophy of crafting a new style of organ, one that looked and sounded differently from what most American organ companies were producing.

Seventy years after its humble beginnings, Andover has much to celebrate: 118 new organs built, 535 rebuilds/restorations, and over 300 maintenance customers. Our wide-ranging work in building, rebuilding, restoring, and maintaining pipe organs is well-recognized, and best summarized by our mission statement: "Preserving the Past; Enhancing the Present; Inspiring the Future."

Cantate Domino Canticum Novum