



The Organs of Christ Church Cathedral

The Cathedral's First Organ: The Bevington Organ

This instrument replaced the 1859 T.C. Bates barrel organ in the first Christ Church. That building burned in 1869, from which conflagration this organ was rescued by RC priests from the nearby Catholic Bishop's House. Organ builder and hotelier W.C.S. Seeley (1811-1888) bought the remains, rebuilt the organ and set it up in his Australian House in a room next to the bar. The organ had numerous subsequent homes before returning to the cathedral in the 1980's. The present form of this organ bears little resemblance to the original. The pedalboard is gone, pipes have been swapped around and none of the original casework save two front panels remains.

Bevington & Sons, London (1862)

6 stops, 5 ranks
Mechanical action

Manual

Chimney Flute / Stopped Bass 8 (divided)
Principal 4
Flageolet 2
Nineteenth 1-1/3
Twenty Second 1



The Harrison Organ: From Manor House to Cathedral

This organ started life in the musician's gallery of Halsway Manor, a large estate in Somerset, England, southwest of Bristol. It was donated to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School in Duncan, BC in 1935 and eventually was gifted to the cathedral in 1975 after the Farm School had long closed. Today it stands prominently in the south aisle of the cathedral in what is now called St Christopher's Chapel.

Harrison & Harrison (1927)

14 stops, 14 ranks
Mechanical action

I. Great Organ

Open Diapason 8
Claribel Flute 8
Rohr Flöte 4
Octave 4
Flageolet 2

II. Swell Organ

Lieblich Gedackt 8
Echo Salicional 8
Vox Angelica 8
Principal 4
Nazard 2-2/3
Twelfth 2
Trumpet 8

Pedal

Sub-bass 16
Flute 8



Local Legend: Grant Smalley's Chamber Organ

The Cathedral's Chamber Organ was built locally by Vancouver Island organ builder Grant Smalley in 1997. Designed for playing early music and accompanying small ensembles, this portable instrument can be easily moved anywhere in the cathedral and can play at both baroque pitch (A=415 Hz) and modern pitch (A=440 Hz). The organ was generously donated to the cathedral by Mr. Smalley several years ago to enhance the cathedral's musical activities.

Grant Smalley (1997)

5 stops, 5 ranks
Mechanical action

Manual

Stopped Flute 8' (divided)
Stopped Flute 4' (divided)
Quinte 2-2/3' (treble)
Principal 2' (divided)
Regal 8' (divided)





Hellmuth Wolff's Opus 47: One of Victoria's Musical Gems

The main organ of Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria with its 4,000 pipes, exquisite mechanical action and soaring casework is among Canada's finest instruments. Built in 2005 by the Quebec firm Hellmuth Wolff et Associés, the beautiful and versatile instrument is part of the backbone of musical and liturgical life at the cathedral and inspires the next generation of organists as the primary teaching instrument for the University of Victoria organ program and the Victoria Organ Studio (est. 2021).

Hellmuth Wolff & Associés, Opus 47, 2005

61 stops, 85 ranks

Mechanical action

I. Rückpositiv

Quintadena 16
Principal 8
Rohrflöt 8
Octave 4
Koppelflöt 4
Nasat 2 2/3
Superoctave 2
Terz 1 3/5
Mixture V
Dulcian 16
Trompete 8
Krummhorn 8
Tremulant

Couplers

IV to II
III to II
I to II
IV to I
III to I
IV to P
III to P
II to P
I to P

II. Hauptwerk

Præstant 16
Octave 8
Spitzflöt 8
Flöt travers 8
Octave 4
Hohlflöt 4
Quint 2 2/3
Superoctave 2
Cornet V
Mixture V-VI
Fagott 16
Trompete 8
Tremulant

Accessories

Rückpositiv Tacet
Wind Stabilizer
Echo shutters (III)
Nachtigall
Zimbelstern

III. Unterwerk (enclosed)

Lieblich Gedackt 16
Principal 8
Bordun 8
Salicional 8
Unda maris 8
Octava 4
Nachthorn 4
Flageolet 2
Mixture V
Basson 16
Trompete 8
Oboe 8
Clairon 4
Tremulant

IV. Oberwerk

Suavial 8
Copula major 8
Quintadena 8
Octava 4
Copula minor 4
Violetta 4
Hörnli II
Fletl 2
Oberquinte 1 1/3
Mixture IV
Trompete 8
Vox humana 8
Tremulant

Pedalwerk

Bordun 32
Principalbass 16
Subbass 16
Octavbass 8
Flötbass 8
Choralbass
Rauschpfeife V
Kontraposaune 32
Posaunenbass 16
Trompetenbass 8
Trompete 8
Schalmey 4



Listen to the Wolff organ at the link here:

