

Second Educational Organ Information Sharing Evening – June 8th 2010,

St. Peter's Church Parish Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Previously, there was an educational information session with a representative from Casavant organs present to explain the pros and cons of new versus refurbished organs.

The purpose of this evening is threefold:

- To present information about pipe organs and digital organs
- To review the spreadsheet with facts and figures
- To answer questions from parishioners

Therefore, the purpose of the evening is NOT to make a decision as to the type of organ the corporation should look at purchasing, but to obtain more information so the parishioners and the corporation can make a more informed decision, at a later date.

Tonight, there will be two organs represented: Classic Organ which manufactures electronic digital organs and Durham Organs which manufactures pipe organs. Other digital organ companies were unable to be present this evening; however, they sent their proposals to the church. Questions and answers from parishioners are contained within this report. The answers are in bold.

The organ committee in collaboration with The Rev'd Canon Jennifer Reid and the Corporation of St. Peter's will be inviting the parishioners to come out to a special vestry meeting early in the fall – a two week notice period will be given to the parishioners informing them of the date and time of the special vestry meeting.

Classic Organ Company: Darryl

- started business since 1976
- in the 1970's - 1980's built custom organs
- by the late 1980's, the company became more involved in the manufacturing of pipe organs
- during the last several years the company has been involved more in developing and manufacturing technology – component parts for pipe organ control systems; whereby, the company has been supplying other companies with this latest technology
 - ½ of business is to produce technology/parts over the internet
 - this technology is becoming suitable to build church instruments with it – there are some organs built with it in the U.S.A., Quebec and Germany
 - Hauptwerk(“headwork” – or the part of the tracker organ which starts right about where the organist's head is) has allowed manufacturers to piggyback on the research (Apple technology) that has taken place re: audio
- focus is to recreate a traditional pipe organ sound... i.e., Salisbury Cathedral – whereby, there is a fluidly dynamic wind chest...digital technology allows for up to 500 audio channels
- for a 1000 pipes (small pipe organ), you need 1000 speakers
- doesn't happen in older technologies... limited in different sound sources
- Hauptwerk allows as many different types of samplings of real (pipe) organs-it mimics what is going on in a pipe organ.
- In a Hauptwerk system, the company “constructs” the organ virtually as a real organ; whereas in a Proprietary system (in electronic organ terms proprietary refers to a pre-selection of digital samples compiled almost in a binder, from which the electronic organ builder chooses when he/she designs and electronic binder) . The “binder” contains several different “samples” of real organ sounds which are then “cooked up/modified” via electronic wizardry/technology to play back.
- Uses software/material that Apple builds and supports

Q - If the computer gets out of date what will happen?

A - if it is out of date... who cares? As the technology will be able created to be compatible with the digital technology that will exist in the instrument the company keeps up to date with latest research and technology.

-If you want to change sample sets, a different sample set is added

Sample sets: Hauptwerk is a host... buy on a few disks and load into the software

As an example: the church is looking at the Salisbury Cathedral sound sampling – whereby, we hear the same quality of sound as that from Salisbury Cathedral's pipe organ

-other sound samplings are available: German, French/romantic

-looking at building a traditional console with draw knobs

-when we sell a system: there is a user interface and a sample set

What we are proposing for the church:

-split the organ up into component parts: console (user interface), build a console of a state of the art computer control system that can be used to run a pipe organ and digital organ

- build a top notch console which will last for 100 years and which will allow the church to change to a pipe organ

-4 manual organ consoles that would be capable of all the controls that would allow us to reproduce the sound of the organ at Salisbury Cathedral

- have versatility of 60 stops which would be suitable for accompaniment, orchestra, recital performances

-if you're going to put an organ in, purchase a really good console and then decide upon whether it will be digital or pipes or a mixture (hybrid) of the two

-can up-grade the software

- good draw knobs, as opposed to a touch screen

-in compliance with full AGO (American Guild of Organ) specifications

-OAK casing

-the speakers would be hidden behind a facade of pipes

-what we had present at the church was an organ that was spread out in different spaces

Acoustics: Recommending...

-the carpet needs to be removed, as it is soaking up sound

-the ceiling and the beams are soaking up the sound/reverb – treble/middle range. The ceiling needs to be sealed with urethane

-the walls (solid stone) plaster and latte soaking up the middle/bottom range

-would recommend looking seriously at the acoustics- dry wall and hard ceiling

Cost: "Ballpark"

-4 manual console, 60 stops, sub. Woofers, speakers, approx. \$200,000 installed... not looking at façade or other work that we recommend...custom organ

Q-First electronic organ had vacuum tubes which have become obsolete... what about 20 years from now?

A-Best then to go with mechanical

-Computers most cost effective

Q-Is the technology you are recommending going to be serviceable?

A-as best as it is available

-control system is less than 5% of the cost of the entire system; therefore, not a major consideration

-isn't a problem in finding spares... using more and more off the shelf components

Q-concern regarding digital organ and acoustics

A- every electronic instrument has reverberation built in

-it's the acoustics that make the sound

Q- Are there any churches in the GTA that have a digital electronic organ with the HUPP work?

A-No... not an organ nearby

-showroom is located at Woodbine/Steeles – Markham - showroom that has sample sets on display

Brochures are available

Pipe Organ: Henk Berentschot from Durham Manufacturing in Whitby

-company has been around 25-30 years

-prior to this, he was a carpenter

-doesn't have information on the electronics, although he uses them

-proposing a 23 rank pipe organ with 5 digital stops mainly used in the pedal... 32 and 16 foot pitch (hybrid pedals)

-mechanism with slider chest (all common notes i.e. C's are on one channel) with electric pull down

-wind chest built by another company Rieger- Kloss (- largest builder in Europe (145 years) located in Czechoslovakia- along with pipes)

-pipes will be located in same general area but closer to the altar

-console will take 6-9 months to build

-complete organ will take 1 ½ -2 years to build and install

-Organ building is an art and comes in three categories:

- Does the instrument fit in with the building, aesthetically?
- Is it pleasing to the eye?
- Does or will it provide the appropriate and desired sound for the building?

-showed photos of an organ in Grassie (near Grimsby)... clear, crisp sound due to acoustic and reverberation

-Ranks (a set of pipes, usually on the manual keyboards comprising of 61 pipes, one for each note, or the pedals, 32 pipes, again one for each of the 32 pedals)

-Stops (usually refers to the knob or tab which the organist pulls or pushes to make that set of pipes, aka rank play. The particular "rank" is the actual "stop," as opposed to the knob or tab mentioned)

-the organ would be located on either side of the chancel, towards the back... can use the swell space for Additional choir space

Q-Will the installation process be disruptive to worship services at the church?

A-Installation process should not be disruptive as the bulk of the work will be done at the front

Q-Did the church in Grassie, as well as the other churches require adjustments to the acoustics, and if so, what were they?

A-looked at the acoustics and the ceiling in each location, in some cases a lacquer (urethane) had been sprayed on

Cost: "Ballpark"

-for this organ installed \$479,000... warranted for 10 years

Q- Is it a limited time warranty or all encompassing?

A- all encompassing

Locations of similar organs:

- Covenant Canadian Reformed Church, Grassie

-Hebron Christian Reformed Church, Whitby

-Maranatha Christian Reformed Church, Bowmanville

Tuning:

-\$450.00/tuning

-the number of times the organ is tuned depends upon usage by the organist and temperature changes

Q-Why should we buy Berentschot rather than Casavant?

A-Casavant no longer the best builder around anymore. They were at one time the leading manufacturer; however, other manufacturers have been able to benefit from their technology and their pioneering edge

-Rieger- Kloss organ (of 1960 vintage) located in London England, has been transplanted three times ... Clem was recently involved in the retrofitting

Questions re: spreadsheet

Q-What are the differences between the Phoenix, Allen and Classic organs?

A-Phoenix- based in Peterborough... originally came from England... two brothers set up the company Allen is quoting to the church \$1M- \$1.3 M for high end digital

-Wind chest is the box the pipes sit on

-Keyboard-bunch of switches

Clem:

-Classic Organ: instead of pulling "drawing" on the knobs, the organist is touching the screen

-you get what you hear... you also get the "out of tuneness" and the hissing of air

-acoustic sand reverb: St. Peter's acoustics... very dry... Classic organ would be lovely

as they are looking at building a real organ console with a real pedal board with a Salisbury sound

Ian:

-computer and computer program that is proprietary....need to access the source codes... need to get legal advice in the event the company goes out of business:

Q-concern regarding the different components in a pipe organ- if any company goes out of business – what will this do to St. Peter's and the organ?

A-warranties from different manufacturers are extended to the organ builder

Q-Would there be enough financial security in the company to be able to back up any warranty transferred from the manufacturer to the organ builder?

A-need to know the financial "stability/depth" in the company to be able to back up the warranty

-Rev'd Kibblewhite recommended for committee members speak with the organ committee members at St. Andrew's, Scarborough regarding the refurbished Berentschot organ they had installed while Rev's Kibblewhite was the incumbent

Q-digital electronic organ... more "toys" what benefit do we get in having that much more functionality?

A-(Clem):St. Peter's Church... village church (precious) that has great aspirations... it will allow for greater flexibility, in the future

-if you want a teaching instrument that will meet the liturgy it would be a 25 stop, 2 manual tracker instrument

-need to look at what quality of instrument will attract future organists

Q-What about a hybrid organ (mixture of digital and pipe organs)?

A- problem regarding tuning due to temperature changes and the temperament changes... pipes go in one direction and the electronics remain the same... hear a difference in tuning"beats" – the higher the pitch of pipe- (shorter the pipe), the faster the "beats"... the lower (longer) the pipe, the "slower" the beats

- at the present time, there is available a 2 manual, 25 stop tracker (mechanical action) organ built in 1994 located in Grenville Christian College Chapel in Brockville (which has closed)

-the tracker organ at Grenville Christian College Chapel has:

- 2 manuals,
- 25 stops and is suitable for our building (notwithstanding the need for a west end gallery/balcony-by the main doors (referring to an installation of a second balcony -not the balcony by the second floor classrooms/offices)
- has a multiple memory for the presets (called pistons)
- it is designed to play Anglican music
- was designed by Giles Bryant (a well-reknown organist)

Q- What is meant by “the general cost associated with maintenance?”

A- costs usually associated with the general maintenance of the organ within a set time period

Rev'd Canon Jennifer Reid:

- organ builder will **not** be determining the looks of the organ within the church and the effect the installation will have on the worship space, nor will the organ builder change the appearance of the worship space based on his grand scheme/vision
- we will need to bring in at least one church architect to assist and direct us, and who is impartial
- we will need some outside advice and get at least one consultant who is independent, but knows our church, that can make a recommendation to the corporation of St. Peter's

- need to consider all expenses of all organs, as well as, additional expenses (acoustics, architecture etc.,) associated with acquiring a new/newer organ; however, keeping in mind the need to get the best value (sound that will meet all liturgical needs) for the money being spent
- need to consider what the acquisition of a new/newer organ will mean in terms of debt load/ maintenance expenses, warranties etc., for future generations
- need to know how the Diocesan Fundraising Campaign will assist St. Peter's in acquiring a new/newer organ

Ian:

There has been a terrific response by the parishioners to attend the educational information sessions. The concern at the present time is that parishioners, who have been unable to attend the information sharing evenings, will not be able to make an informed decision regarding the finances at the special vestry meeting in the fall. This is a long term project that must be looked at with diligence and with transparency. As a result, there is a lot of work still to be sorted out and accomplished.

The educational meeting concluded at 9:30 p.m.