



WHEN IN
OUR MUSIC
GOD IS
GLORIFIED:

*The History
and Future of
Our Great Organ*

2015
CATHEDRAL ORGAN
FUND

**Christ Church Cathedral
Mobile, Alabama**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DEAN



Dear Friends of Cathedral Music,

From the earliest years of parish life here at Christ Church, the pipe organ has been central to the musical expression of our worship. In the pages of this brochure you will find a history and pictures of our organs and an account of the many gifted musicians who have played the instruments and directed the choirs here over the last 175 years. Ours is a goodly heritage, and we are called to be good stewards of the instruments and traditions entrusted to our care.

Cathedral Organist and Choirmaster Christopher Powell has spent many fruitful hours in the Cathedral Archives, gathering information about the organs of Christ Church and the musicians who have served here over the years. I believe you will enjoy this presentation of his findings, and I hope you will follow his series of biographies of Christ Church organists as these appear in *The Messenger* throughout the year. The more we understand about the history of music in this sacred place, the greater will be our appreciation for the music we experience when we gather here—and the deeper will be our sense of connection to those who have come before us, and those who will come after.

You will notice on page 5 a “By the Numbers” listing of our organs and their original sizes and costs. You will also learn more about the recent

assessment of our organ by Mr. Jack Bethards of Schoenstein & Co., who valued the replacement cost of our present instrument at \$1.8 million. Mr. Bethards has prepared for us a master plan for the care and maintenance of the Cathedral organ as we move toward and beyond our 200th year in this place.

In his report, Mr. Bethards identified several repair and deferred maintenance issues that needed to be addressed in order to insure the preservation of our instrument’s integrity. The Cathedral Vestry approved the completion of these repairs and adjustments, and the Milnar Organ Company of Nashville, Tennessee accomplished this work late in the spring of this year. Our organ now performs and sounds better than it has in many years, and it now has a regular schedule of maintenance to ensure its continued quality of condition.

This is where you come into the picture of the Cathedral organ’s life. To enable future generations here at Christ Church to enjoy the organ’s beauty, we would like to establish an ongoing fund dedicated to its care and improvement. This fund would provide for regular maintenance and minor enhancements, as well as build a body of monies for any larger projects that might someday be called for. You may do this through a one-time gift, a regular pledge of support, or a bequest to this fund. You will find a card enclosed in this brochure for your response.

We take great joy in the musical gifts God has given us at Christ Church Cathedral, and we are justifiably proud of the level of musicality that we presently enjoy. Under the leadership of Christopher Powell, our musical program has a great future in store! Please be generous in showing your thankfulness for what we have and your hope for what lies ahead.

Faithfully,
Beverly F. Gibson +
The Very Reverend
Beverly F. Gibson, Ph.D., Dean

P.S. I hope to see many of you at the summer organ concerts!

SUMMER ORGAN RECITALS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Christopher W. Powell, organist

All recitals are free and open to the public.

Bach: The Origin

Sunday, June 21, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

This Father's Day, celebrate J. S. Bach, the father of all Western music after him. Explore the many sides of this great composer, and hear some of his greatest works.

Program:

Toccata and Fugue in F Major BWV 540

Prelude and Fugue in c minor, "Arnstadt" BWV 549

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 659

Toccata and Fugue in d minor, "Dorian" BWV 538

Trio Sonata No. 6 in G Major BWV 530

1. *Vivace*

Fantasy and Fugue in g minor BWV 542



A Night at the Symphony

Sunday, August 23, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

Come enjoy an evening of organ music inspired by symphonic works.

Hear transcriptions of famous orchestral pieces and a complete organ symphony by Charles-Marie Widor.

Part One:

Marche de Fête (1905)

Edgar A. Barrell (1900-1992)

Album Leaf

Richard Wagner (1813-1883)

Funeral March Op. 35

Frederic Chopin (1810-1849)

Bells Through the Trees (Nocturne) (1933)

Garth Edmundson (1882-1971)

Part Two:

Organ Symphony No. 4, Op. 13, No. 4

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

I. *Toccata*

II. *Fugue*

III. *Andante cantabile*

IV. *Scherzo*

V. *Adagio*

VI. *Finale*



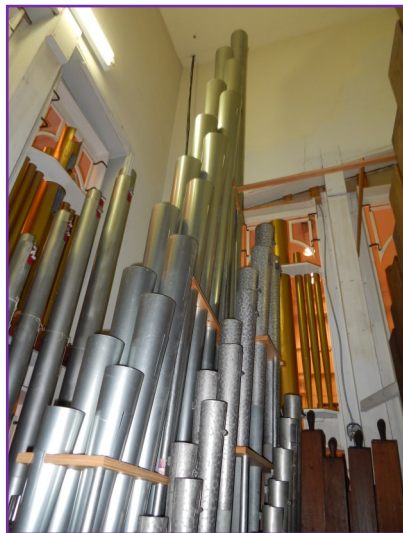
WHEN IN OUR MUSIC GOD IS GLORIFIED: THE HISTORY AND FUTURE OF OUR GREAT ORGAN



View of organ pipe chamber

Around the turn of the new millennium, the congregation of Christ Church was divided. Some left The Episcopal Church and others remained. Shortly after this time, Christ Church was elevated to the status of Cathedral Church of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. As the congregation of our newly-instated cathedral was rebuilding and growing, the leadership recognized the need for renovation of the buildings on our campus. As part of our continued stewardship of our spaces and assets, the need was recognized to revise a master plan for the renovation and maintenance of our facilities. By the latter part of 2014, it was clear that we needed a unique and specific master plan for the future of our historic organ. Jack Bethards, of Schoenstein & Co., currently considered the most successful organ company in the United States, was enlisted to visit the Cathedral and draw up a master plan. Bethards has also consulted for the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, Washington National Cathedral, and Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, among others.

Upon inspecting nearly every inch of our pipe organ, Bethards reported that it has many lovely tones and many good options for improvement and preservation. Of our space, Bethards wrote, "Your outstanding



Pipes of the pedal division

acoustical environment gives Christ Church Cathedral unlimited potential for excellence in organ tone." The result of the consultation also listed the replacement cost of our organ as \$1.8 million. Bethards included options and ideas for the preservation and improvement of our organ in his report. He also gave us a list of things that should be done now to protect it and maximize its effectiveness.

The Milnar Organ Company of Nashville, Tennessee, was recommended for the implementation of the immediate repairs. They completed this work in May 2015. Our pipe organ is in good mechanical condition, and the decay of the older pipes has been prevented.

As we move forward in our life together, we have the opportunity to see who we are and envision who we will become. Just as we did this for our buildings, we can also do it for our pipe organ. In short, we can envision the best version of what it can become, and work from there. This is why we have established the Cathedral Organ Fund to maintain the instrument and provide for its future. This fund will be ongoing, unlike

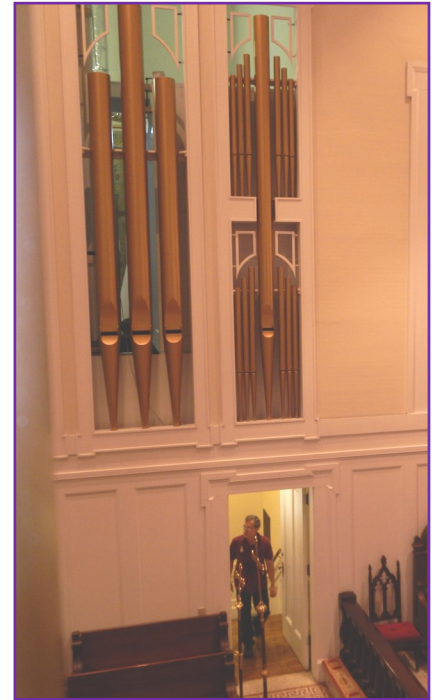
many organ funds which are established to build a brand new organ. Our fund, rather, is designed to preserve and improve our historic instrument as we implement the continuing renovation of all of our spaces and assets.

In the words of Lyndon B. Johnson, "Art is a nation's most precious heritage. For it is in our works of art that we reveal to ourselves and to others the inner vision which guides us as a nation. And where there is no vision, the people perish." Together, we can ensure that Christ Church Cathedral and her organ can continue evangelism through music and continue making God's love known in this way for generations to come.

Peace in Christ,

Christopher W. Powell
Organist and Choirmaster

cpowell@christchurchcathedralsmobile.org



View from Organ Chamber during recent maintenance



*1857 Henry Erben organ in the balcony
(destroyed in the 1906 hurricane)*

DETAILED SUMMARY OF THE CATHEDRAL ORGAN'S HISTORY

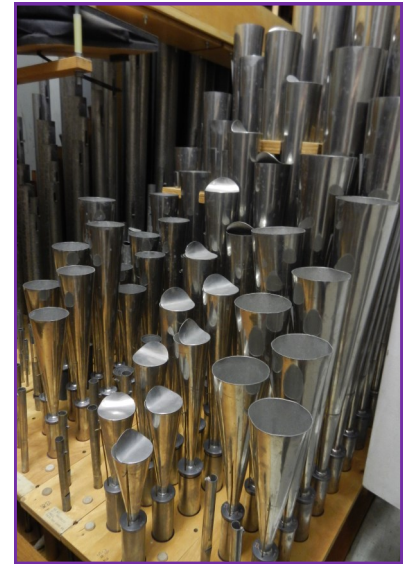
As early as 1841, a pipe organ by renowned New York builder, Henry Erben, was in use at Christ Church, Mobile. In 1857, the famed builder returned to Mobile when a rival company, Jardine and Sons, intended to install a grand instrument in the city's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Erben, not wanting to be outdone, offered to buy Christ Church's organ as long as the congregation promised to buy a new one for \$6,000. When building commenced, however, Erben found he had underbid the job but completed it at cost. Christ Church was furnished with a \$10,000 pipe organ, and many proclaimed it the finest in the South. This instrument was "made famous" by the playing of Madame Kowalewski, and served as a centerpiece for fine music within the walls of the church.

Disaster struck in 1906 when a hurricane sent the church's steeple crashing through the roof. The organ was destroyed, as was much of the church. The ladies of the church raised funds to buy a new organ, and in 1907, a fine instrument was purchased from the Hook & Hastings Company of Massachusetts at a cost of \$10,500. This instrument was altered and damaged in the 1940s, but the organ remained in faithful service for around 80 years. The Deagan Chimes of the organ were given in memory of fallen soldiers of Christ Church during the Second World War. The chimes were dedicated and first used during the midnight service on Christmas Eve of 1946. These chimes are still in use today.

As early as the 1970s, it was recommended a restoration be undertaken of the Hook & Hastings organ. As is often the case, it took until 1987 for a new iteration of the organ, built by the Steiner-Reck company of Kentucky, to come to fruition. While originally, it was

recommended that the organ be restored to its original state (pre-1940s), plans grew to make Christ Church's organ a premier concert instrument in Mobile. A restoration became a rebuilding, and the overriding goal was that the organ of Christ Church should be able to present organ repertoire authentically regardless of the historical period or school of organ building. Hence, the Hook & Hastings pipework of 1907 was married with new pipework of the 1980s, French-style reeds were introduced along with German mixtures, and the organ took on new life.

In 2009, a Trompette en Chamade (horizontal trumpet) was added to the organ and seems to usher in our "Cathedral era". Today, the organ stands as one of the largest in the city of Mobile and at the heart of our music ministry and outreach. It sounds during weddings, funerals, diocesan events, and regular services. Most importantly, it accompanies our songs of praise to our Creator and gives voice to our prayers. We now turn our eyes to the future of this instrument.



Reeds of the swell division

THE CATHEDRAL ORGAN: BY THE NUMBERS

1841 Henry Erben:
\$2,600

1857 Henry Erben (50 stops):
Paid \$6,000 Valued at \$10,000

1907 Hook & Hastings (39 stops):
\$10,500

1987 Steiner-Reck rebuild of Hook & Hastings
and additional pipes (57 stops):
\$228,771

Currently, the replacement cost of our pipe organ:
\$1,800,000

TIMELINE OF CHRIST CHURCH'S ORGANISTS

F. C. Unger (c. 1841-1846)

Former organist of St. Thomas Church, NYC

Mariah Kowalewski (1846-1897)

Pupil of Frederic Chopin

Mrs. Emerson (1898-1900)

Frank Wilbur Chace (1900-1903)

Noted concert organist of the early 20th century

J. Clarendon McClure (1903-1904)

*Renowned musical personality, pedagogue,
and published composer*

F. A. Dunster (1904-c. 1915)

Published composer, concert organist

Rosine Cox (c. 1915 - ?)

*Music personality in Mobile, early member of the
Clara Schumann Club, a musical society of ladies
promoting chamber music and works of women
composers.*

McClelland Vaughan (? -1925)

J. Clarendon McClure (1925-1938)

F. A. Dunster (1938-1939)

J. Clarendon McClure (1939-1955)

Beverly Hagan (1955-1972)

*Well known pedagogue and promoter of
musical culture in Mobile*

Carl W. Gettig (1972-1983)

Wesley Ellis (1984-1986)

*Oversaw majority of Steiner-Reck rebuild
of the organ*

Karen Morgan Kearney (1986-1995)

Peggy Lyden (2001-2014)

*First organist after the church's elevation to a
Cathedral, rebuilt the musical program, and laid a
strong foundation for the future.*

Christopher William Powell (2014-present)

*This timeline shows all of Christ Church's known organists since 1841, the year the church was consecrated by Bishop Polk. This research is an ongoing process. **We welcome information from anyone able to contribute to this project.** Ultimately, we hope to publish articles about most of these organists and present historical concerts based on music they presented here. The following list only contains persons identified in records as "organist" or "Organist/Choirmaster." There is a notable gap from 1995 to 2001 due to changes in liturgical practice and use of the organ.*



Biography of Christopher W. Powell, Cathedral Organist and Choirmaster Summer 2015 Recitalist

Christopher W. Powell is an organist, composer, choir director, and improviser from Pensacola, Florida. Beginning formal musical studies at the age of five, Powell's interest in the organ, composition, and church music began before age three. After four years of piano study, he started organ lessons at the age of nine, playing the organ in church for the first time that year. First paid for his services at age 12, Powell became Assisting Organist at his home parish at age 14, the same year as his first solo organ recital. At the age of 15, he began his first Organist/Choirmaster position at Trinity Episcopal Church in Atmore, Alabama, simultaneously serving as Interim Organist at St. Anna's Episcopal Church (a Native American parish) in Poarch, Alabama, and as Temple Musician at Temple Beth-El Synagogue in Pensacola. After serving as organist of his home parish, Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Pensacola, and as Organist/Choirmaster of St. Andrew's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Destin, Florida, Powell left to continue his musical studies in New York City.

In 2008, Powell was accepted to The Juilliard School and studied with Grammy Award winning organist, Paul Jacobs. While at Juilliard, Powell appeared in concert at Christ and St. Stephen's Church as part of the 2008-09 Lincoln Center season, Trinity Church on Wall Street, and The Juilliard School. Powell also played in other capacities at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, the Church of St. Paul the Apostle, and the Church of the Holy Family in Manhattan, and the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City, New York. While at Juilliard, Powell was also Organist/Choirmaster of St. James Episcopal Church in Queens, New York.

In 2009, Powell accepted the position of Director of Music Ministry at St. Paul Roman Catholic Church in Pensacola, Florida. While there, he formed a concert series, managed a staff of professional musicians, composed over 160 choral and instrumental works, and located and oversaw the restoration of the last surviving Baumgarten pipe organ. This instrument, the last of its kind, is a missing link between

American and European organ building traditions. Also during his time at St. Paul, Powell appeared in concert with the Pensacola Choral Society, the Pensacola Symphony Orchestra, and at the University of West Florida. In 2013, he occupied the temporary position of Composer in Residence with the Northwest Florida State College Youth Orchestra.

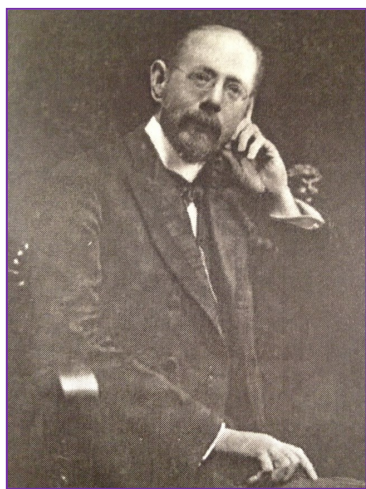
Having accepted the position of Cathedral Organist and Choirmaster at Christ Church Cathedral in Mobile, Alabama, in August of 2014, Powell currently manages the vibrant music program and concert series. He looks forward to continued growth of the music ministry to the glory of God.

Powell has resumed his studies in organ performance and is in the studio of Dr. Lynne A. Lauderdale at the University of West Florida. Powell is grateful for the support of his wife, Katie, son, William, and stepchildren, Avery and Owen.

Cathedral Organist Biography Series—No. 2

Note: No. 1 in this series appears in the June issue of the Cathedral newsletter, The Messenger. The newsletter is available on the ministry table outside the Cathedral office and an electronic version is available on the Cathedral website: www.christchurchcathedralmobile.org.

Biography of Frank Wilbur Chace Organist of Christ Church from 1900-1903



The following is reprinted from the book, *Biographies of Celebrated Organists of America*, by William Howard Benjamin, published in 1908.

Frank Wilbur Chace, organist and choirmaster of First Presbyterian Church, Seattle, Washington, one of the largest churches in the

country, having a seating capacity of three thousand and a membership enrolled of three thousand. The organ is a fine instrument of Austin make, containing choir, great, swell, solo, and echo.

Dr. Chace was born at Providence, Rhode Island, March 19, 1868.

He came from a musical family, both his mother and father being talented amateurs. His first instruction in piano began at the age of four under the instruction of his mother. He played in public at the age of seven.

His education in early life was under the instruction of

the best teachers both in Providence and Boston. Later he studied theory with A. Gore Mitchell, Mus. Doc. Oxon., H. A. Wheeldon, Mus. Bac. Cantab., Dudley Buck, organ under Edwin H. Lemare, and piano under Rafael Joseffy.

He has held the following positions: Organist and Choirmaster, St. Andrew's P. E. Church, Jacksonville, Florida; Organist and Choirmaster, Christ P. E. Church, Mobile, Alabama; Organist and Choirmaster, Christ P. E. Church, Nashville, Tennessee; Director of Music, Albion College Conservatory, Albion, Michigan; Organist and Choirmaster, First Congregational Church, Kalamazoo, Michigan; Organist and Choirmaster, First Presbyterian Church, Seattle, Washington, his present position.

While in Jacksonville, Dr. Chace gave many choir festivals, presenting such works as Tour's *Service in F and C*, Dyke's *Service in A and D*, Gounod's *St. Cecelia*, Monk's *Service in C*, Dudley Buck's *Cantatas* for different seasons, Stainer's *Crucifixion*, and many others, sung for the first time in the State of Florida.

While in Mobile, Dr. Chace organized the first choral organization composed of large chorus and orchestra in the South. This organization presented all the large oratorios and cantatas, bringing on artists to sing the solo parts, also developing and bringing out local singers.

While Director of Music in Albion College and Organist and Choirmaster at the Congregational Church in Kalamazoo, Dr. Chace obtained credit for theoretical work done which was recognized not only by the colleges in the State but by the University of Michigan. He organized a chorus which gave the larger oratorios and cantatas, giving festivals in Albion and Kalamazoo.

Dr. Chace gave two recitals at St. Louis during the World's Fair held there in 1904. These recitals added materially to his reputation as a concert organist. While in the South and Michigan, he gave many organ recitals, dedicating and opening many new organs.

He was one of the first candidates to pass the examination and be admitted to the Associateship of the American Guild of Organists of New York City. In October, 1905, he was given the Doctor of Music through the Regents of the University of the State of New York.

He has several unpublished manuscripts, among them being several songs, a full service for the Episcopal Church, a string quartette and several choruses and anthems.

The Chicago *Record-Herald* in writing of an organ recital given by Dr. Chace: "His control of the instrument is so easy and natural, even in the most difficult passages, as to give the impression that he is evolving the theme note by note rather than interpreting masterpieces of famous musical composers." The Chicago *Chronicle* says: "Dr. Chace's technique was of a high order and the emotional parts of the selections were interpreted with an appreciation which is possible only in a master." The *Musical Courier*: "Dr. Chace is a sure technician which made his work clear and clean cut, particularly noticeable in the Bach numbers."

CATHEDRAL ORGAN FUND



Christ Church Cathedral

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For nearly two centuries, Christ Church has enjoyed beautiful organ music within its walls. Over the years, four different pipe organs have occupied this space. Ours is an organ tradition we can be proud of and must maintain. Our pipe organ has been the “voice of our space,” and with continued maintenance it can play this role for generations to come. Help us support this ministry so that our heirs will share in this glorious heritage.

The line drawing for the Cathedral Organ Fund of the 1841 Henry Erben Organ is the work of Jennifer Grehan.