

Casavant Frères



Skaneateles, New York — First Presbyterian Church

Three manuals and pedals, 32 stops, 40 ranks

Detached drawknob console, compass 61/32

Electro-pneumatic action

Opus 3819, 2003

Photographs: Stanley Scheer

The Finger Lake region of New York is well known as an area of particular natural beauty. Skaneateles, a town with tree-lined streets and a rich architectural heritage, sits at the northern tip of Skaneateles Lake about an hour's drive west of Syracuse. First Presbyterian Church was organized in 1801. Their first church was built in 1809 but was outgrown rather quickly. That building was sold to the local Baptist Church and is used to this day by that congregation. The present structure serving the congregation of First Presbyterian Church dates to 1892 and is a building with historic recognition. It boasts a marvelously open nave with a high ceiling and beautiful stained-glass windows. During the course of the project, which spanned many years, all viable options were examined for the location of the organ, its size and visual appearance. During this time the interior of the church underwent a superb transformation that dramatically improved both its appearance and the acoustical setting, thus providing an excellent vessel for the performance of all types of music. Congregational singing has improved dramatically and the church has become one of the primary venues for the Skaneateles Summer Chamber Music Festival.

The organ casework takes its inspiration from instruments found in churches dating to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Its location at the front of the nave places it in a perfect position to speak freely and directly into the nave. In order to keep the instrument's footprint from being too invasive and to preserve sight lines to the stained glass windows above the case, only the Great and Pedal divisions are immediately behind the casework. The Récit and Positif Expressif are housed in spaces behind the front wall and speak through large openings, which were cut into the wall as part of the renovation project to prepare for the new organ. Restoration of the Echo division, which dates to an earlier instrument, is planned for the future.

Grand Orgue		Récit	
Bourdon (Récit)	16	Bourdon (Ext.)	16
Montre	8	Principal étroit	8
Flûte à cheminée	8	Cor de nuit	8
Flûte harmonique (common bass)	8	Viole de gambe	8
Prestant	4	Voix céleste (TC)	8
Flûte conique	4	Octave	4
Doublette	2	Flûte douce	4
Fourniture IV	1-1/3	Octavin	2
Basson (Récit)	16	Plein Jeu III-IV	2
Trompette	8	Basson (Ext.)	16
Cromorne (Positif)	8	Trompette	8
Chimes		Hautbois	8
Grand Orgue Unison Off		Tremblant	
		Récit 16', Unison Off, Récit 4'	
Positif Expressif		Pédale	
Bourdon	8	Soubasse ¹	32
Flûte douce	8	Bourdon ¹	32
Flûte céleste (TC)	8	Montre	16
Principal	4	Soubasse	16
Flûte à fuseau	4	Bourdon (Récit)	16
Nazard	2-2/3	Octavebasse (Ext.)	8
Quarte de nazard	2	Flûte à cheminée (Grand Orgue)	8
Tierce	1-3/5	Cor de nuit (Récit)	8
Larigot	1-1/3	Octave	4
Mixture III	1	Cor de nuit (Récit)	4
Cromorne	8	Bombarde (Ext.)	16
Hautbois (Récit)	8	Basson (Récit)	16
Tremblant		Trompette (Grand Orgue)	8
Positif 16', Unison Off, Positif 4'		Hautbois (Récit)	8
Contre trompette (Grand Orgue)	16	Clairon (Grand Orgue)	4
Trompette (Grand Orgue)	8	Hautbois (Récit)	4
Clairon (Grand Orgue)	4	Cromorne (Positif)	4

¹ Digital

	Echo (prepared)		
Flûte d'écho	8	Voix humaine	8
Viole	8	Tremblant	
Viole céleste	8	Écho 16', Echo 4'	
Vox angeliques	8		



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