

AEOLIAN-SKINNER Op. 1353

Park Street Church, Boston

Aeolian-Skinner Opus 1353, contracted in 1957, is the last church organ Aeolian-Skinner built for its home city of Boston. The organ was installed between July 1 and October 30, 1960, and was dedicated in morning worship on January 8, 1961; Bach's *Tocatta and Fugue in D minor* was the postlude that morning. Virgil Fox played the dedicatory recital in the evening that same Sunday. It has been anecdotally reported that the recital started almost 45 minutes late because Mr. Fox had forgotten his cape, and couldn't begin without it!

The pipes are located in three locations: the Great & Swell and the Choir & Pedal are located in towers at the front of the church, sitting atop the left and right balconies, respectively. The Antiphonal division is in a chamber at the rear of the church, also above the balcony. Though the Antiphonal is now used extensively to accompany the choir and other musicians who perform from the rear loft, it was designed merely as an auxiliary division to provide additional musical color, as Park Street Church did not have a choir in 1960 (the church was still using what remained of its vocal quartet, which by that time was just two singers, tenor Carl Nelson and soprano Alice Farnsworth Boffetti).

The original leather and other perishable elements of the instrument are failing, and the voicing of the pipes themselves is the product of a trend at the time to follow what was thought to be "historical" practices (now known to be based on flawed data and analysis) that is not particularly conducive to the main use of the organ: the accompaniment of congregational singing and choral anthems. Ongoing restoration and rebuilding work will repair and correct the instrument so that it can ably lead music for future generations.

Park Street church bought its first pipe organ in 1828 (for \$1,000), and new organs followed in 1885 (for \$4,700), in 1910 (for \$10,000), and in 1960 (the current organ – for \$68,000). The first two organs were located wholly in the back gallery, as was common practice in New England meetinghouses. The two towers at the front of the church date to the 1910 organ (as does the harp stop (really a modified mechanical marimba)—contained in the antiphonal division—which was reused by Aeolian-Skinner).

Specification begins on next page.

SPECIFICATION

Aeolian-Skinner Opus 1353, 1960

Joseph Whiteford, tonal director

Manuals: 3
Stops: 56
Ranks: 51
Pipes: 3,053

Great (II)

16'	Gedeckt	61	(revoiced 2017 from Quintaton)
8'	Principal	61	(revoiced 2013, Spencer organ co./Jonathan Ambrosino)
8'	Bourdon	61	
4'	Octave	61	(revoiced 2013, Spencer organ co./Jonathan Ambrosino)
4'	Rohrflote	61	
2'	Fifteenth	61	(revoiced 2013, Spencer organ co./Jonathan Ambrosino)
IV	Mixture	244	(revoiced 2013, Spencer organ co./Jonathan Ambrosino)

Swell (III)

8'	Rohrflote	61	
8'	Viola Pomposa	61	
8'	Viola Celeste	61	
8'	Kleine Erzhaler II	110	(ex. Antiphonal; original Sw. Flute Celeste to storage)
4'	Octave Geigen	61	
4'	Flute Harmonique	61	
2 2/3'	Nasat	61	
2'	Octavin	61	
III	Plein Jeu	183	
16'	Hautbois	61	
8'	Trompette	61	
8'	Hautbois	12	
4'	Clarion	61	
	Tremulant		

Choir (I)

16'	Dolcan	12	(not in box)
8'	Viola	61	
8'	Pommergedeckt	61	
8'	Dolcan	61	
8'	Dolcan Celeste	49	
4'	Koppelflote	61	
2 2/3'	Nazard	61	
2'	Blockflote	61	
1 3/5'	Tierce	61	
8'	Krummhorn	61	
	Tremulant		

Antiphonal (floating)

16'	Gemshorn	--	(from ANT pedal)
16'	Rohr Bass	--	(from ANT pedal)
8'	Principal	68	(ex. opus 205-A; revoiced 2017 Spencer/Ambrosino)
8'	Gemshorn	68	(regulated 2017, previously called "Spitzgamba")
8'	Celeste	53	(ex. 4' Spitzflute + add'l pipes, from GG#, 2017 Spencer)
8'	Chimney Flute	68	(revoiced 2017 Spencer/Ambrosino)
4'	Principal	61	(new vintage pipes 2017 Spencer/Ambrosino)
4'	Harmonic Flute	61	(ex. opus 553; added 2017 Spencer/Ambrosino)
III	Mixture	183	(revoiced 2017 Spencer/Ambrosino)
16'	Double Trumpet	61	(ex. pedal reed; revoiced 2017 Spencer/Broome)
8'	Trumpet	68	(revoiced 2017 Spencer/Broome)
4'	Clairon	24	(from 16')
	Tremulant		

Pedal

32'	Resultant	--	
16'	Contra Bass	32	
16'	Bourdon	32	
16'	Gedeckt	GT	
16'	Contra Dolcan	CH	
8'	Principal	12	
8'	Bourdon	GT	

8'	Gedeckt	GT	
4'	Choralbass	12	
4'	Bourdon	GT	(from Bourdon 8)
III	Mixture 4'	96	
16'	Bombarde	--	[digital until rebuild phase III; pipes now in ANT]
16'	Hautbois	SW	
8'	Trompette	--	[nonfunctioning until phase III; pipes now in ANT]
4'	Clairon	--	[nonfunctioning until phase III; pipes now in ANT]
	Chimes		

Antiphonal Pedal

16'	Gamba	12	(new open pipes 2017, in box)
16'	Rohrbass	12	(from chimney flute, in box)
8'	Spitzgamba	ANT	
8'	Chimney Flute	ANT	
16'	Double Trumpet	ANT	
8'	Trumpet	ANT	(from 16')

6 General pistons, duplicated on toe studs

6 pistons to each division (pedal pistons duplicated on toe studs)

3 Ped-To-Manual toggles; activates pedal combinations 1-6 along with divisional combination when corresponding divisional piston is pressed)

All Tremulants off toggle

All Swells reversible toe stud (SW, CH, and ANT on SW pedal)

Full organ reversible

Great, Swell, Choir to Pedal reversible toe studs and pistons

Antiphonal-on- Great, Swell, Choir drawknobs (located in destination division)

Antiphonal Pedal-on-Choir drawknob

Standard inter- and intra-manual couplers