

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AEOLIAN-SKINNER ORGAN, OPUS 1233 AT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

May 1950

The original 1925 Hall organ at the front of the sanctuary was destroyed by fire. The Hall Echo division at the rear of the sanctuary above the balcony survived.

November 1952 to Fall 1953

Aeolian-Skinner, Opus 1233 was installed at a cost of \$30,150. Design of the organ was by G. Donald Harrison, Joseph Whiteford and William Zeuch in consultation with Helen Robertson, Minister of Music at the church. Voicing and tonal finishing was done on site by Donald Gillette. The 3-manual and pedal organ consisted of 39 ranks. The dedication recital was played by Dr. Carl Weinrich on February 10, 1954.

Late Spring 1963

All bass and pedal chest action was rebuilt by Aeolian-Skinner at a cost of approx. \$1,600.

May 1963

The original 1925 Hall Echo division at the back of the church was damaged by fire hoses due to a fire in that part of the church. The division was not repaired.

Summer/Fall 1969

The following changes to the specification were initiated by organist Erick Brunner and executed by Aeolian-Skinner at a cost of roughly \$1,200.

- Addition of unison offs to the Great, Swell and Choir divisions;
- Rewiring of the Swell Fagot 16' to make it available in the Pedal division;
- Replacement of the Echo drawknobs with those which would accommodate a future Positiv division.

Summer 1977

Organ chambers were cleaned by Frazee Organ Service at a cost of \$3,750.

July 1982

R. L. Victorine releathered the valve action for the combination action at a cost of approx. \$700.

July 1983

A contract was signed with M. P. Möller for two additions at a cost of \$16,600.

- 8' Trompette en Chamade (in honor of Helen Robertson's 35th anniversary as Calvary's Minister of Music)
- 32' Contre Bombarde

1984

R. L. Victorine releathered the Swell division and made repairs to the basement reservoir at a cost of \$12,017.

1985

R. L. Victorine releathered the Choir division at a cost of \$9,830.

1986

R. L. Victorine releathered the Great division at a cost of \$9,657.

1987

R. L. Victorine releathered the Pedal division at a cost of \$5,498.

November 1992

A contract was signed with the Hagerstown Organ Company for a new four manual console at a cost of \$76,045. Elizabeth and Raymond Chenault played the dedicatory recital on November 14, 1993. The original console was sold to Mr. Bill Church of Floyd, Virginia for \$2,000 in July 1993.

April 1994

A contract was signed with Walker Technical Company for the addition of an electronic Echo division at the back of the church and several electronic additions to the pedal of the main organ at a cost of \$15,800. The Echo division is dedicated in memory of Sarah and Henry Bailey.

January/February 2004

The organ's original switching system was updated to solid state at a cost of \$5,300.

Fall 2004

A new Zimbelstern, given in memory of Hansford and Thelma Harvey, was added to the organ at a cost of \$970 to replace one which had been installed many years before.

April 2006

Walker Technical Company updated the previous Walker system and added additional digital voices for \$20,610. These additions were made in memory of Helen Robertson. The Great Trumpet added at this same time is given in memory of E.R. and Dorothy Andrews. Frederick Swann played a memorial service and recital on Sunday, June 4, 2006.