Organbuilders

Austin Organs, Inc., of Hartford, Connecticut, is completing installation of its new organ, Opus 2789 with 62 ranks, for St. John Vianney Catholic Church, Houston, Texas. The organ is on high wind pressure with large scales and will feature double expression across the entire instrument. Austin recently finished refurbishment of its Opus 2421 at Beth El Temple in West Hartford, Connecticut. The project consisted of a complete reconditioning, conversion to a solid-state system, and total internal changes, which included a Second Diapason, Harmonic Flute, and digital ranks. Austin has signed three additional renovation contracts. Opus 2378, for St. James’s Episcopal Church, West Hartford, Connecticut, is a project including reconditioning, console reconfiguration, conversion to solid-state, and tonal additions. Trinity Episcopal Church, Asheville, North Carolina, which houses Austin Opus 2695 will also include reconditioning, console rebuilding, solid-state conversion, as well as both pipe and digital additions. Glenshaw Presbyterian Church, Glenshaw, Pennsylvania, is home to Austin Opus 1575, which was rebuilt in the 1960s. The 1960s project included roll-in to a thinner Principal chamber and removal of the 16’ Open Wood. The 2017–2018 rebuild will include significantly rescoring and revising the Principal chamber, reconditioning the entire instrument, console reconfiguration, conversion to a solid-state system, and the addition of a Tuba and 16’ Open Wood pipe ranks. For information: www.austinorgans.com.

Charles Ruggles

Charles Ruggles is the subject of a recent thesis on his career, written by Mark A. Herris as part of the requirements for Herris’s Doctor of Musical Arts degree at University of Michigan (https://scholarworks.umich.edu/ehpdc/handle/2022/20961). Ruggles recently celebrated 42 years of designing and building mechanical-action organs. Ruggles’s work has been reviewed in numerous magazines and journals. Ruggles studied organbuilding with John Brombaugh in Middletown, Ohio. In September 1975 he began building mechanical-action organs under his own name in his workshop in Cleveland Heights. In September 1981 he moved his workshop and residence to Olmsted Falls, Ohio, and in 1995 moved his residence and workshop to Columbus, Colorado. He is a member of the American Institute of Organbuilders and the International Society of Organbuilders. For information: www.rugglesorgans.com.

Wigton Pipe Organs, Dryden, Michigan, recently installed a nine-stop mechanical-action organ for St. Mary’s of Pescaataro Catholic Church, Clinton, Maryland. The organ, built by C. E. Money of Utica, New York, is now in its third home. Installed in Our Lady’s Chapel, the organ replaces a small one-manual instrument that had proven to be inadequate for liturgy. The organ, originally built in 1902, looks at home in the 1903 chapel. Rebuilding work included re-tabling the manual slider chests, renovating the mechanical key action, rebuilding the manual and pedal keyboards, repositioning the casework, and providing a blower in a sound-absorbing box. The case front and facade pipes were modified to fit the lower ceiling, and the pipes were redecorated and gilded by Oyster Pipe Works of Louis- ville, Ohio. More than a century went into rebuilding and installing the instrument. For information: www.wigtonpipeorgans.com.

Hupalo & Repasky conceptual drawing for St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church, San Francisco, California

II. C. E. Money organ, Our Lady’s Chapel, St. Mary of Piscataway Catholic Church, Clinton, Maryland

Wigton Pipe Organs, Dryden, Michigan, recently installed a nine-stop mechanical-action organ for St. Mary’s of Pescaataro Catholic Church, Clinton, Maryland. The organ, built by C. E. Money of Utica, New York, is now in its third home. Installed in Our Lady’s Chapel, the organ replaces a small one-manual instrument that had proven to be inadequate for liturgy. The organ, originally built in 1902, looks at home in the 1903 chapel. Rebuilding work included re-tabling the manual slider chests, renovating the mechanical key action, rebuilding the manual and pedal keyboards, repositioning the casework, and providing a blower in a sound-absorbing box. The case front and facade pipes were modified to fit the lower ceiling, and the pipes were redecorated and gilded by Oyster Pipe Works of Louisville, Ohio. More than a century went into rebuilding and installing the instrument. For information: www.wigtonpipeorgans.com.