



Featured – Grace Lutheran Clarksville, TN.



Newsletter 2024



Greetings!

As we embark on another year filled with promise and opportunities, we are delighted to bring you the latest edition of our annual newsletter. This newsletter serves as a reflection of the journey we've shared over the past year, and keeping you connected with our company.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each member for contributing to our success. Your dedication and support continue to propel us forward, and we look forward to the adventures and achievements that lie ahead in the coming year. Here are a few of our past year's projects.



First Baptist – Nashville, TN



Downtown Nashville's First Baptist Church in Tennessee recently underwent a significant

renovation of its sanctuary, with a particular focus on the organ. The organ's note pouches were scheduled for a comprehensive re-leathering process during this period. Leveraging the ongoing room renovations, we seized the opportunity to carry out the re-leathering seamlessly.

Prior to the commencement of the primary renovation, we successfully removed all the note pouch boards without causing any disruption. We then removed the horizontal trumpet and covered the entire instrument with heavy construction plastic. The room renovations took about a year.

After ensuring the room was thoroughly cleaned and dust-free, we reinstalled all the pouch boards. The result of the renovation is a striking and beautiful transformation of the sanctuary.



First Baptist Gadsden, AL



Located in Gadsden, Alabama, First Baptist Church boasts a magnificent 1982 Shantz three-

manual, 53-rank organ. With a rich history dating back to its founding in 1855, the church has long been a pillar of support and service for the community. In a recent project, our team was entrusted with the task of enhancing this beautiful instrument. The focus was on the console, and we embarked on a comprehensive upgrade of the control system and relays. To achieve this, a dedicated team of six strong individuals skillfully removed the very heavy console from the stage, navigating it down the front steps of the historic building.



Our shop foreman, Kevin Magrath, designed a lifting and carrying system that distributed the console weight evenly. Each of the men had a good solid handle to carry the large Schantz console down the 26 steps (shown above) of the church front steps.



The new console carrying system

Once safely transported to our shop facility, we meticulously dismantled the existing components and replaced them with a state-of-the-art Peterson ICS-4000 system. During the reinstallation process, new cage relays were integrated into all the organ divisions. The result of these enhancements and additions is nothing short of remarkable. The project not only preserves the heritage of the church's cherished organ but also ensures trouble-free performances for years to come.



Milnar Organ Company current news is on our website links page:
www.milnarorgan.com



St. Louis Catholic – Memphis, TN



In 1999, the Canadian organ builders Casavant Frères designed, constructed, and installed a distinguished pipe organ at Saint Louis Catholic Church in Memphis. This exceptional instrument has been a musical cornerstone for the church since its inception. More recently, Mr. Simon Couture, the Vice President of Casavant, approached our firm to collaborate on expanding and enhancing this splendid organ. The church's desire to enlarge the choir loft provided the perfect opportunity to implement these planned additions. Over the years, our firm has been entrusted with the regular tuning and maintenance of the organ, fostering a strong partnership with Casavant.

During the initial installation, six ranks of pipes were set aside for future use. Seizing the chance to contribute to the organ's evolution, we installed these ranks in the Swell and introduced an 8' Trompette chest in the Great, resourcefully cantilevering it over the gallery.

Our collaboration with Casavant has consistently been a pleasure, reflecting a shared commitment to musical excellence and the preservation of this exceptional instrument at Saint Louis Catholic Church. We also collaborated projects with Schoenstein, Reuter, Golding and Wood, and Schlicker organ companies.



Search For: Milnar Organ Company LLC



Grace Lutheran – Clarksville, TN



The pipe organ at Grace Lutheran Church had its origins in 1952 as a two-manual, 15-rank Schantz instrument crafted for First Presbyterian Church in Gainesville, FL. In 1974, it underwent a significant expansion, growing to nearly 60 ranks. In the late 1990s, renovations were required for the Gainesville church building, prompting the need to relocate the organ. Opting for a new home, the church found a willing recipient in Grace Lutheran.

In the year 2000, Webber Pipe Organs of Louisville, KY was commissioned to reinstall the Gainesville instrument, adjust the stoplist, and construct a new façade. During a recent inspection last year, our company identified the need to re-leather all the bellows. In the process of re-leathering, we also addressed the proper voicing by tightening all the reed wedges. The project proved successful, benefiting all parties involved.



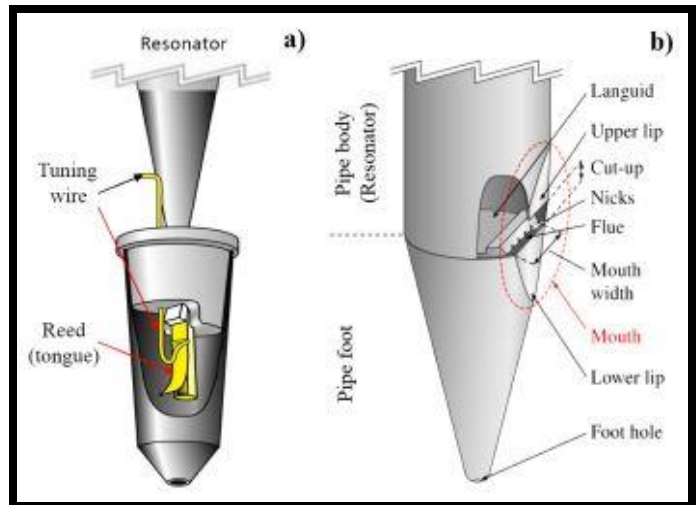
Helpful Tips!

- For the best tuning possible, remind the custodian the day before we come. The temperature should be as it is during your Sunday worship service. Always have the HVAC fan set on circulate when organ is tuned and when played.
- Make notes of problems as they occur and leave the list in your blue notebook.
- If you need a service call, book a call early in the week before the next Sunday service.
- Have your piano tuned to the organ. The organ is not tuned to the piano. Remember that the piano technician also needs the correct temperature and humidity.



Dear AIO Colleagues,

We have recently removed several pipe organs to make way for new organs. We have a over 300 ranks of pipes for sale from top builders and suppliers in North America. We charge 1/3 of the wholesale cost of new pipes. Pipe sets are stored in bubble-wrapped trays in a climate-controlled facility.



***Fun Facts: A (Reed) & B (Flue) show the names for each part of a pipe.**



St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral – Memphis, TN



In October 1864, the cornerstone for St. Mary's German Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception was laid, and on October 30, 1870, the church was dedicated. The altars, crafted from wood imported from Germany, are handmade. Franciscan brothers, known for their skilled craftsmanship, contributed to the creation of the carved pews, ornate confessional,

and frames of the Stations of the Cross. These brothers, who traveled to various locations where the Franciscans settled, would build church furnishings on-site. In the recent past, we were tasked with removing the pipes of the organ to facilitate the painting of the sanctuary walls. Additionally, we relocated the trumpet-enchamade from the back of the church to a new lower position on the wall. If you're interested, there's a YouTube video documenting the removal process that you can watch.

<https://youtu.be/q09o7kbqDI?si=syHVqgVUfWQS7Wka> or search YouTube for: St. Mary's Cathedral organ pipes removal



Current Project:

First Baptist of Memphis – Memphis, TN



We are currently collaborating with First Baptist in Memphis to restore the organ that suffered water damage. The leakage from the ceiling above the Great/Choir division, caused by a roof issue, prompted us to remove the pipes and cover the chests for workers to address the ceiling problem.

While addressing the water damage, we are taking the opportunity to re-leather the bellows, an overdue task. During the inspection, we identified several magnet actions in the chests that require replacement due to water damage. Ensuring swift magnet action in the organ is crucial for optimal performance, and that is our priority.

Derek Milnar Retirement

Partner & Technical Director



Derek Milnar was born in 1961, in North Tonawanda, New York. In 1968, he relocated with his family to Nashville, Tennessee. At the age of 12, Derek enhanced his summers by working for the Organ Company. Subsequently, in 1979, Derek enlisted in the TN Army National Guard, where he served with distinction. He achieved academic excellence, graduating Summa Cum Laude from Nashville State Technical Institute in 1981, with a degree in Architecture.

Post-graduation, Derek transitioned into a full-time role at Milnar Organ Co., where he specialized in design and electrical work. Derek is a proud father of three children: Ryan, Jonathan, and Miranda. His military dedication continued as he served in the Gulf War from 1990 to 1991. In 1999, Derek retired from the National Guard with the rank of Major.

Even though Derek retired in September, he remains accessible for consultation, generously allowing us to seek his expertise. We fondly reminisce about the thrilling experiences we shared while working together!

Summarizing the art of organ building:

Organ building is the comprehensive practice involving the design, construction, restoration, and maintenance of pipe organs.

Organ builders receive commissions to design instruments tailored to specific needs, considering spatial, technical, and acoustic factors. This involves expertise in pipe scale length, materials like wood and metal, and an understanding of statics, aerodynamics, mechanics, and electronics.

While builders oversee all aspects, workshops often employ specialists for tasks like pipe making and metal casting. New organs require pre-tuning and voicing before assembly, tuning, and voicing on-site. Maintenance includes adjusting pipes, action, and repairs. Overhauls involve thorough cleaning and possible modifications.