

SPECIFICATION of the ORGAN at ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, BRISBANE

GREAT

16	Double Open Diapason
8	Open Diapason
8	Gemshorn
8	Stopped Diapason
4	Octave
4	Spitz Flute
2 ² / ₃	Twelfth
2	Fifteenth
1 ³ / ₅	Seventeenth
IV	Furniture (19.22.26.29)
V	Mounted Cornet (Middle C to Top D)
8	Trumpet
4	Clarion

Solo to Great, Swell to Great, Choir to Great

SWELL (enclosed)

16	Quintaton
8	Open Diapason
8	Spitz Flute
8	Viola da Gamba
8	Voix Céleste (from Tenor C)
4	Principal
4	Stopped Flute
2	Fifteenth
III	Full Mixture (15.19.22)
III	Sharp Mixture (26.29.33)
8	Oboe
8	Vox Humana
	Tremulant
16	Double Trumpet
8	Cornocean
4	Clarion

*Swell Octave, Swell Sub-Octave,
Swell Unison Off; Solo to Swell*

CHOIR (enclosed)

16	Contra Salicional
8	Open Diapason
8	Bourdon
8	Dulciana
4	Prestant
4	Flûte Ouverte
2 ² / ₃	Nazard
2	Quarte
1 ³ / ₅	Tierce
III	Plein Jeu (22.26.29)
8	Cromorne
8	Trompette
8	Tuba (from Solo)
	Tremulant

*Choir Octave, Choir Sub-Octave,
Choir Unison Off; Solo to Choir, Swell to Choir*

SOLO (enclosed)

8	Flûte Harmonique
8	Quintade
8	Viole d'Orchestre
8	Viole Céleste (from Tenor C)
4	Concert Flute
4	Octave Viol
2	Piccolo
8	Rohr Schalmey
	Tremulant
	(unenclosed)
8	Spanish Trumpet (Tenor C to Top D)
8	Tuba
4	Octave Tuba

Solo Octave, Solo Sub-Octave, Solo Unison Off

POSITIVE (unenclosed)

playable on Solo, Great, Choir and Pedals

8	Chimney Flute
4	Principal
4	Koppelflöte
2	Octave
2	Blockflöte
1 ¹ / ₃	Larigot
1	Octavin
III	Zimbel (29.33.36)
8	Krummhorn
	Tremulant

*Positive to Great, Positive to Choir,
Positive to Solo, Positive to Pedal*

PEDAL

32	Acoustic Bass
16	Open Wood
16	Principal
16	Violone (Gt. 16)
16	Bourdon
16	Quintaton (Sw. 16)
16	Salicional (Ch. 16)
8	Octave (ext. of Ped. Principal)
8	Bass Flute (ext. of Ped. Bourdon)
4	Choral Bass
4	Spitz Flute
2	Nachthorn (ext. of Spitz Flute)
IV	Mixture (12.15.19.22)
32	Contra Posaune
16	Trombone
16	Trumpet (Sw. 16)
8	Tromba (ext. of Trombone)
8	Trompette (Ch. 8)
8	Krummhorn (Pos. 8)
4	Rohr Schalmey (So. 4)

*Solo to Pedal, Swell to Pedal,
Swell Octave to Pedal, Great to Pedal,
Choir to Pedal*

HISTORY

With over 4,000 pipes the organ of St John's Cathedral is one of the largest in Australia. Its stop-list is eclectic, and can accommodate a vast range of styles. Although arguably most comfortable in the late Romantic French repertoire, where the play of generous acoustic and mellifluous timbres come into their own, it manages magnificently composers as diverse as Messiaen, Sweelinck, Rheinberger and Reger.

The original specification of 1909 was drawn up by George Sampson. The Cathedral's architect, J. L. Pearson, who had designed Truro Cathedral in England (famous for its magnificent Willis instrument) created a similar design where the blend of high stone ceilings and gothic arches creates a fine acoustic for organ sound. In common with many organs of this period, the builders were from England and the famous company of Norman and Beard produced a rich and sonorous instrument without abrasive upper-work, strings, mixtures or mutations.

The Cathedral was enlarged in 1968 – it is due for completion in 2009 – and the opportunity was taken to reflect the contemporary understanding of the organ and its place in the Cathedral's life as both a liturgical and recital instrument. The Positive division was added to support the instrument's projection, and a large range of colourful stops was added to increase the palette available to the player. As well as thrilling reeds, vibrant mixtures and piquant mutations there are some Solo Strings which came from Gloucester Cathedral in England.

The organ case was given by Brisbane City Council in 1924 to commemorate the centenary of white settlement in Queensland. Situated on the East side of the North transept the organ speaks well into the building. The Swell division is housed nearer the choir, and there are even two possums on the organ case! The Organ features regularly in broadcasts and recordings; with regular monthly organ recitals, given either by Cathedral staff or visiting recitalists. Access to the loft is via a spiral staircase from outside the Lady Chapel. The organ is now under the care of W.J. Simon Pierce Organ Builders.

R.Jeffcoat
Ascension Day, May 2006

ACCESSORIES

- 24 levels of memory, each with 24 pistons.
- 8 levels of divisional pistons:
Great, Swell, Choir, Solo and Pedal -
8 divisionals and 0 (cancel) each;
Positive - 4 divisionals and 0 (cancel).
- 1 Advancer and 1 Retarder, duplicated on each key-check, and available also as toe pistons.
- 1 General Cancel (thumb), 1 Full Organ (toe),
Great to Pedal Combinations.
- The usual coupler thumb-pistons are under each manual.
- Adjustable stool. Console is also equipped with mirrors, cameras and headphones and a fan!
- Manual Compass 61 notes, Pedal Compass 32 notes.

ORGANISTS of St. John's Cathedral

1898-1946	Mr George Sampson
1946-1959	Mrs Louise Grimes
1960-2004	Dr Robert Boughen
2005-	The Rev'd Rupert Jeffcoat

CONTACTS

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The Organ of St John's Cathedral Brisbane