

<% writeTop "The Walcker Organ", "organ_pipes.jpg" %>

Organ by E.F.Walcker & Sons (Opus 1175: 1904)



Eberhard Friedrich Walcker comes from the great German organ building tradition who's family began building in 1780. His name is automatically associated with the development of the **German Romantic organ**. Demand for his work grew enormously after the recognition of his great work in *St Paul's Church* in Frankfurt in 1833. The organ incorporated several features which were unique at that time, including an elaborate series of *mutation stops*. By 1840 EF Walcker invented the mechanical cone valve, the kegellade wind chest, and a stop crescendo device, and also sought solutions to creating more *stable* wind supply.

After the death of E.F. Walcker in 1872, the firm was managed by his team of sons **Heinrich, Fritz, Paul and Karl** - the third Walcker generation of organ builders. They soon landed success at the Vienna World's Fair in 1873, where four Walcker organs were put on display with the distinction of an honorary diploma. They were responsible for many important instruments, including the *Cathedral of Riga* and the *Cathedral of St. Stephan* in Vienna.

Fritz's son, **Oscar Walcker**, took over the family business in the 1900's. Oscar carried on the traditions of the great German Romantic ideals of his grandfather, and collaborated with one of the great German organists and composers, **Max Reger** in constructing fabulous instruments. Oscar also resurrected the more ancient techniques of organ building, the "Praetorius Organ" he constructed hailed back to the era of Bach and was perfect for the polyphonic music of previous centuries. He received an honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Freiburg for his bold approach and concept.



Apparently, the Walcker organ family built a large number of instruments throughout Scotland in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Their tone is typically bright and keen - tonally quite different to the British organ of the day, and employing unfamiliar types of action which could confuse local organ repairers (which was more problematic if the labels were in German!).



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The Walcker Pipe Organ is a beautiful instrument which is integrated into the very fabric of the building. The inauguration of the organ was celebrated on Sunday, 2nd April 1905. Sunday, 27th April, 1905, witnessed the last occasion on which the praise was led uniquely by a Precentor. Ever since then the organ has performed its role in leading the people in the praise of God, up to this very day.



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The organ is impressively voiced with a versatile selection of stops. The most subtle effects are possible, which are perfect for subdued voluntaries or accompaniment of weaker instruments. For this there is a full range of sounds and timbre up to the full tutti, achieved by literally "pulling out all the stops". The organ has been highly praised for its suitability for performing the works of J S Bach, the great German organist and composer who influenced by his genius Mozart, Beethoven and many others.



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The following pictures below attempt to show how the organ adds to the general beauty of the church. The pipes surround the sides of the chancel, and their emphasis of the vertical is perfectly in keeping with the neo-gothic style of the interior. The carving of the wooden cases is of the highest quality and artistically most pleasing.



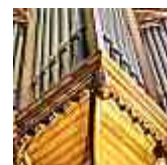
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Pedal (30 notes: 6+3 stops)

Open Diapason	16
Violon	16
Sub Bass	16
Bourdon (Swell)	16
Octave Bass	8
Flute Bass	8
Solo to Pedal	
Great to Pedal	
Swell to Pedal	

Solo & Choir (61 notes: 8+4 stops)

Gemshorn	8
Concert Flute	8
Dolcissimo	8
Flauto Traverso	4
Piccolo Harmonique	2
Clarionet	8
Vox Humana	8
Tremulant	
Solo Tuba (unenclosed)	8
Solo Sub Octave	
Solo Super Octave	
Swell to Solo	

Great (61 notes: 10+3 stops)

Double Open Diapason	16
Large Open Diapason	8
Small Open Diapason	8
Hohl Flute	8
Dulciana	8
Principal	4
Harmonic Flute	4
Twelfth	2+
Fifteenth	2
Tuba (Solo)	8
Great Octave	
Solo to Great	
Swell to Great	

Swell (61 notes: 10+3 stops)

Lieblich Bourdon	16
Open Diapason	8
Lieblich Gedackt	8
Viola d Orchestra	8
Voix Celestes	8
Geigen Principal	4
Piccolo	2
Mixture (3 rks)	
Horn	8
Oboe	8
Tremulant	
Swell Sub Octave	
Swell Octave	

Accessories

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- 3 composition pedals to Swell
 - 3 composition pedals to Great (+ Pedal)
 - Reversible thumb pistons to Great to Pedal and Swell to Great

Reversible thumb piston to Cresc:of [i.e. Crescendo off]
Balanced expression pedals to Solo and Swell
General crescendo pedal with indicator dial (0-34)
Wind indicator dial (Empty/Full)