

Revision/Expansion by Timothy Tikker of:

From: International Organ Foundation, Madrid, Spain  
Internet:100023.2476@compuserve.com  
CompuServe: 100023,2476  
IOF Cat #: 00103600020  
Osiris file: skinner.stjohn-divine.new-york.ny.us.1910

---

Location: New York, USA  
New York City  
Cathedral of St John the Divine (Episcopal)  
Builder: Aeolian-Skinner (was Ernest M. Skinner), Boston, MA, USA  
Year: 1954 (rebuild of former 1910 organ)  
Opus: 150-A (was EM Skinner opus 150)

#### Case

Builder: E. M. Skinner  
Date: 1910  
Materials: wood carved front and metal display pipes, organ enchanbered  
in chancel sides  
Console type: detached  
Stop controls: drawknob, with rocking tablets for couplers above fourth  
manual  
Pedals type: concave-radiating, AGO Standard

#### Action

Key: electro-pneumatic (pitman chests)  
Stop: electro-pneumatic

Temperament: equal  
Tuning (a'): 440Hz @ 70 degrees F. (per contract)  
No. stops: 95 actual voices; 115 apparent speaking registers  
(outside of percussions).  
No. ranks: 141  
No. pipes: 8,035 (?)

#### Wind supply

Power:  
Pressures:  
Choir: 6"/152.4mm;  
Great: 5.75"/146mm & 10"/254mm (per Long; contract gives 5.5"  
throughout);  
Swell: 6"/152.4mm & 10"/254mm;  
Solo: 15"/381mm, Tubas 25"/635 mm  
Bombarde: 10"/254mm;  
West End: 50"/1270mm ;  
Pedal: 6"/152.4mm, 10"/254mm & 17"/431.8 mm (latter 25"/635mm per  
contract)

Another source gives the following:

Choir: same  
Great: 4.5"/114.3mm & 6"/152.4mm  
Swell: same  
Solo: 10"/254mm, Tubas 25"/635mm  
Bombarde: 12"/304.8mm  
West End: same  
Pedal: 6"/152.4mm & 25"/635mm

History: Rebuilt and enlarged by G Donald Harrison, 1954

Bibliography:

- Charles Callahan: Aeolian-Skinner Remembered: A History in Letters;  
Minneapolis, Randall M. Eagan Publishers, 1996; pp. 449-453 (text of  
contract specifications)

Discography:

- The Organ at the Cathedral of St John the Divine,  
Michael Murray, Telarc CD-80169, DDD, 7/1987
- An Organ Blaster Sampler, Michael Murray, Telarc CD-  
80277, DDD
- Romantic French & German Organ Music, organist Marsha Heather Long,  
CD, Koch International Classics CD 3-7008-2 (1990)
- French Masterworks from St John the Divine, organist Jonathan Dimmock,  
CD, Arkay Records AR-6114 (includes 20-page booklet on organ)

Comments: "old" in spec below refers to 1910 Skinner pipes; "sc" refers  
to Aeolian-Skinner scale numbers; apparently a few details were carried  
out differently than as indicated in the original contract specifications  
-- these are noted where known.

Specification:

Choir (I; expressive; all ranks 73 pipes except as indicated)

Sanftbass	16	old Gamba revoiced, rescaled wider fr 8' C
Viola Pomposa	8	1954; 50 sc, tapered 2 halftones
Viola Celeste	8	1954; 60sc, idem
Concert Flute	8	old, unchanged
Nason Flute	8	old 16' Gedeckt revoiced
Dulcet	8	II ranks; old, revoiced
Dolcan	8	old Dulciana revoiced; 68 pipes
Dolcan Celeste	8	idem; c0, 56 pipes
Montre	4	1954 60sc, slotted, slides
Koppelflo"te	4	1954
Rohr Nasat	2 2/3	1954
Blockflo"te	2	1954
Terz	1 3/5	from old Swell Mixture III, rescaled
Larigot	1 1/3	idem
Sifflo"te	1	from 2' of old Swell Mixture, rescaled
Grave Mixtur	1-1/3	III 1954 46sc @ 8' C
Zimbel	1/3	III 1954 49sc @ 8' C
English Horn	16	1954 low 12 old, rest 1954
Cromorne	8	1954
Clarinet	8	old, revoiced
Trompete	4	1954 sc #4
Tremulant		
Harp		
Zymbelstern		5 bells

Great (II; 61 pipes e. a. i.)

Montre	16	1954 graduating sc: 40 @ 16', 90 @ 1/2'
Quintaten	16	old Choir 8' Quint. rescaled wider; old bass, capped; 73 pipes

Principal	8	1954	45sc, 2/7m, grad. to 55 @ 4' C
Diapason	8	1954	44sc/ 1/4m, grad. to 54 @ 4' C; II fr.
g'', 2 HT wider			
Viola	8	old	Gambe, rescaled wider from 4' C
Hohl Flo"te	8	old,	revoiced
Holz Gedeckt	8	old,	revoiced
Quintaten	8	ext	from 16
Erzahler	8	old,	revoiced
Quint	5 1/3	1954	ex Ch Geigen rescaled
Principal	4	1954	54sc, 2/7m, 18th halving, II fr. c#'',
1 HT wider			
Octave	4	1954	55sc, 1/4m, II fr. c#'', 1 HT smaller
Spitzflo"te	4	1954	used Gemshorn, revoiced
Flute Couverte	4	1954	
Twelfth	2 2/3	1954	64sc
Doublette	2	1954	67sc, 2/7m, 18th, II fr. c#'', + 1 HT
Fifteenth	2	1954	70sc, 1/4m, 18th, breaks to 4' @ g#''
Sesquialtera	2-2/3	II 1954	67sc, 75sc, both 18th
Kleine Mixtur	1-1/3	IV 1954	48sc @ 8' C, 18th
Grande Fourniture	IV-VI	1954	[orig spec V-VIII] 44sc @ 8', 19th
Plein Jeu	2 III-VI	1954	unisons 43sc @ 8', 2/7m, quints
45sc, 1/4m, 19th			
Cymbel	1/2	III 1954	45sc @ 8', 2/9m, 19th
Fagot	16	1954	half-length

NB: other sources list the 8' Diapason and 4' Octave as I rank throughout

Swell (III; expressive; 73 pipes e.a.i.)

Contra Gamba	16	old	Dulciana revoiced, treble enlarged
Bourdon	16	old,	unchanged
Geigen Principal	8	1954	46sc, 2/7m, 18th
Viole de Gambe	8	1954	56sc, 66sc @ 4' C, 1/4m
Viole Celeste	8	old	Viola revoiced fr 4' C
Salicional	8	old,	unchanged
Voix Celeste	8	old,	unchanged
Gedeckt	8	[?;	omitted from contract spec in book]
Spitzflo"te	8	old,	regulated softer, 68 pipes
Flute Celeste	8	1954,	68 pipes
Unda Maris	8	II	old Aeoline & Unda maris, 146 pipes
Prestant	4	1954	57sc, 2/7m, 18th, 68 pipes
Flauto Traverso	4	old	Flute 1, unchanged, 61 pipes
Violina	4	old,	rescaled to 64sc, 18th, 68 pipes
Octavin	2	1954	68sc, 1/4m, 19th, 61 pipes
Plein Jeu	2	IV 1954	44sc @ 8' C, 1/4m, 18th, 244 pipes
Scharff	2/3	III-IV 1954	46sc @ 8' C, 1/4, 19th, 220 pipes
Contra Fagotto	16	ex	Choir, revoiced, 61 pipes
Cornocean	8	old	revoiced, 68 pipes
Trompette	8	1954,	#3sc, 68 pipes
Oboe	8	old	revoiced, 61 pipes
Voix Humaine	8	old	revoiced, 61 pipes
Octave Trumpet	4	old	revoiced, 68 pipes
Clairon	4	1954,	#3sc, 61 pipes
Tremulant			

Solo (IV, expressive; 73 pipes p. r. e. a. i.)

Flauto Mirabilis	8	old	Claribel unchanged
Harmonic Flute	8	old	unchanged
Cello	8	old,	revoiced from g0
Cello Celeste	8	old,	revoiced from g0
Hohl Pfeife	4	old,	unchanged
Doppel Flo"te	2	old	4' repitched
Flu"gel Horn	8	old	unchanged
French Horn	8	old	unchanged

Vox Baryton	8	old Choir Vox humana revoiced
Tremulant		
Tuba Major	8	new bass, rest old; Unenclosed, 61 pipes
Tuba Clarion	4	Unenclosed; 1954; 73 pipes (top = II flues)

Bombarde (unenclosed, 61 p.p.r.e.a.i.)

Floating; playable from all manuals

Tierce Mixture	1'	V-IX	42/43/45sc, 18th;	376 pipes
Bombarde	16	1954	4-7/8" @ 16' C	
Trompette Harmonique	8	1954	#2sc, harmonic @ c'	
Clairon Harmonique	4	1954	#2sc, harmonic @ c0	

West End (61 pipes, plus low 12 16' octave dummies)

Floating; playable from all manuals

State Trumpet	8	1954	horizontal
---------------	---	------	------------

Pedal (32 p.p.r.e.a.i.)

Open Bass	32	68 pipes, op wd; 24 old revoiced; rest used
Flauto Mirabilis		
Contre Violone	32	44 pipes, revoiced
Open Bass	16	from 32'
Contre Bass	16	1954
Violone	16	from 32'
Montre	16	Great
Gamba	16	Swell
Bourdon	16	Swell
Sanftbass	16	Choir
Quintaten	16	Great
Quintaten	10 2/3	Great
Principal	8	42sc, 2/9m
Montre	8	Great
Spitzflo"te	8	1963, replacing old 8' Cello III
Quintaten	8	Great
Gedackt Pommer	8	1954 [? - not in contract spec*]
Flute Harmonique	8	from 32' Open Bass
Choral Bass	4	1954 56sc, 1/4m, slotted
Montre	4	Great
Nachthorn	4	from 32' Open Bass
Blockflo"te	2	old Choir 2' Piccolo rescaled
Mixtur	5-1/3	IV 1954 43sc @ 8' C, 17th
Scharff	1-1/3	IV 1954 45sc @ 8' C, 18th
Contre Bombarde	32	1954, ext. from Bombarde**
Ophicleide	16	old Tuba mirabilis, revoiced; 56 pipes
Bombarde	16	Bombarde
Contra Fagotto	16	Swell
Trumpet	8	from Ophicleide
Bombarde	8	Bombarde
Clarion	4	from Ophicleide
Rohr Schalmey	2	1954

\*perhaps replaces 5-1/3 Quinte in contract spec (from old Swell Diapason 3)

\*\* orig. spec. to be old Bombarde, revoiced

Mixture compositions (per contract):

CH Grave Mixtur III

C		1-1/3	1	2/3
f#0		2	1-1/3	1

f#' 2-2/3 2 1-1/3  
 f#' ' 4 2-2/3 2  
 f#''' 5-1/3 4 2-2/3

CH Zimbel III

C 1/3 1/4 1/6  
 c0 1/2 1/3 1/4  
 f#0 2/3 1/2 1/3  
 c' 1 2/3 1/2  
 f#' 1-1/3 1 2/3  
 c'' 2 1-1/3 1  
 f#'' 2-2/3 2 1-1/3  
 c''' 4 2-2/3 2

GT Sesquialtera II

2-2/3 1-3/5 throughout

GT Kleine Mixtur IV

C 1-1/3 1 2/3 1/2  
 c0 2 1-1/3 1 2/3  
 c' 2-2/3 2 1-1/3 1  
 c'' 4 2-2/3 2 1-1/3  
 c''' 5-1/3 4 2-2/3 2

GT Grande Fourniture

given in contract as V-VIII, but actually IV-VI... composition thus suspect

C 2 1-1/3 1 2/3 1/2  
 c0 2-2/3 2 1-1/3 1 2/3  
 c' 4 2-2/3 2 1-1/3 1  
 c'' 8 4 2-2/3 2 1-1/3  
 c''' 8 5-1/3 4 2-2/3 2

with 2' doubled c''-c''''; 4' doubled c''-c''''; another 2' (?)  
 c'''-c''''; 2-2/3' doubled c'''-c''''

GT Plein jeu III-VI

C 2 1-1/3 1  
 c0 2-2/3 2 1-1/3 1  
 f#0 4 2-2/3 2 1-1/3 1  
 f#' 8 5-1/3 4 2-2/3 2 1-1/3  
 c#''' 16 8 5-1/3 4 2-2/3 2

Cymbel III

C 1/2 1/3 1/4  
 c0 2/3 1/2 1/3  
 f#0 1 2/3 1/2  
 c' 1-1/3 1 2/3  
 c'' 2 1-1/3 1  
 f#'' 2-2/3 2 1-1/3  
 c''' 4 2-2/3 2  
 f#''' 8 4 2-2/3

SW Plein jeu IV

C 2 1-1/3 1 2/3  
f#0 2-2/3 2 1-1/3 1  
f#' 4 2-2/3 2 1-1/3  
c''' 8 4 2-2/3 2

SW Scharf III-IV

C 1 2/3 1/2 1/3  
c0 1-1/3 1 2/3 1/2  
c' 2 1-1/3 1 2/3  
c'' 2-2/3 2 1-1/3 1  
c''' 4 2-2/3 2 1-1/3  
f#''' 5-1/3 4 2-2/3 2

BOM Tierce Mixture V-IX

C 1 4/5 2/3 1/2 1/3  
G 1-1/3 1 4/5 2/3 1/2  
c0 1-3/5 1-1/3 1 4/5 2/3  
g0 2 1-3/5 1-1/3 1 4/5 2/3  
c' 2-2/3 2 1-3/5 1-1/3 1 4/5  
g' 2 1-3/5 1-1/3 1 4 2-2/3  
c'' 1-3/5 1-1/3 5-1/3 4 2-2/3 2  
g'' 1-3/5 1-1/3 8 5-1/3 4 2-2/3 2 1-3/5  
c''' 16 8 5-1/3 4 3-1/5 2-2/3 2  
f''' 16 10-2/3 8 6-2/5 5-1/3 4 3-1/5 2-2/3 2

PED Mixtur IV

5-1/3 4 2-2/3 2 throughout

PED Scharff IV

1-1/3 1 2/3 1/2 throughout

---