



Featured Cumberland University

Milnar Organ Company Newsletter 2019

Greetings,

The past year has been very exciting for our company celebrating its fifty years in business. The Nashville AGO chapter recognized Dennis for his fifty years of service in the Nashville, TN area. After the wonderful dinner, everyone enjoyed the pipe organ concert played by Dr. Matthew Phelps, Andrew Risinger and Nicholas Bergin.



Nashville AGO honorees (front) Evans Baird, Julia Callaway, Dennis Milnar, Douglas Murry; (back) Joseph O'Berry, Nick Bergin, Matt Phelps and Andrew Risinger

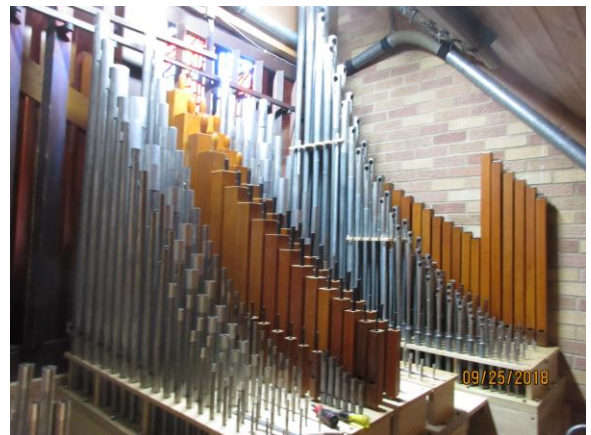


AGO dinner at Belmont Methodist Church in Nashville (Jeff, Trisha, Dennis, Derek, Preston, Greg, Todd)

Here are a few projects that were completed in the last year:



Saint Michael's Episcopal - Cookeville, TN



Located in the city of Cookeville, Saint Michael's Episcopal has a pipe organ with an interesting history. It starts in 1976 with a call from Dr. Walter Derryberry. He was looking for a small used pipe organ that would fit in the balcony at St. Michael's.

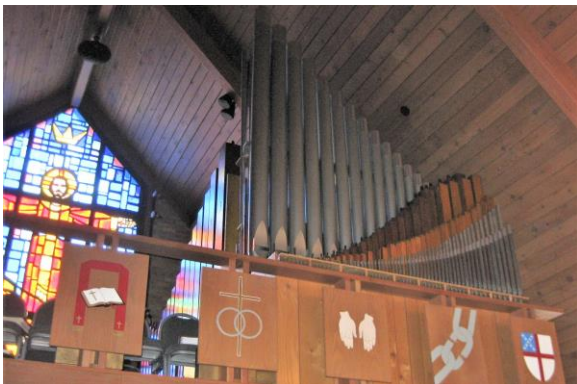
Shortly before the call from Dr. Derryberry, we had removed the 1931 Aeolian organ, 4/41 from Vanderbilt's Neely Auditorium. The Auditorium had become too small for their Baccalaureate service and was converted to a theater.

The Solo division had a large duplex chest. Duplex means it has two primaries. One could be used for a Great division and the other a Swell division. Along with a 16' Flute from the Swell division, the old Solo division chest would make a good organ for St. Michael's small sanctuary.

Aeolian Organ Company was considered one of the finest pipe organ builders in America.

Dr. Derryberry was well aware of their reputation and was excited about having that windchest and pipes in the balcony at St. Michael's. The balcony had more than enough room to accommodate the organ. At the same time, we had acquired a used console from Belmont Methodist Church in Nashville that would work wonderfully for the organ.

With the help of several church volunteers, we were able to lift the heavy equipment up to the balcony. Dr. Derryberry envisioned that someday he would like to see an independent Great. We installed a new blower that could handle the future division. The organ served the congregation for 17 years. During this period, the music program continued to grow. The church decided to expand the organ by adding a new Great division and using both primaries of the Aeolian organ to enlarge the Swell division. This expansion made it necessary to enlarge the balcony, bringing it forward over the main entrance doors. The new exposed Great division doubled the size of the organ and the variety of music that could be played. It also made it possible to expand the size of the choir.



Great Division

The organ console was over 50 years old and becoming unreliable. In 1998, a new Milnar console was built by Jeff Milnar and was equipped with the latest solid-state system. In about 2015, the original Aeolian Duplex Solo windchest was showing signs of interior pneumatic leather problems. The leather was already over 80 years old which is exceptional. With it being a duplex windchest, there were two actions for every note and they were tied together with cat gut. With the complexity of the action and the extreme labor involved, it was impractical to rebuild. It was less expensive to build new windchests for the Swell. We also replaced the main Swell bellows at the same time.

Today, the organ is about 95% new. The few tonal changes we made makes the organ fit the room as a new organ would. We are very proud to have this close association with St. Michael's

Episcopal Church, that all started with that initial call over 40 years ago.

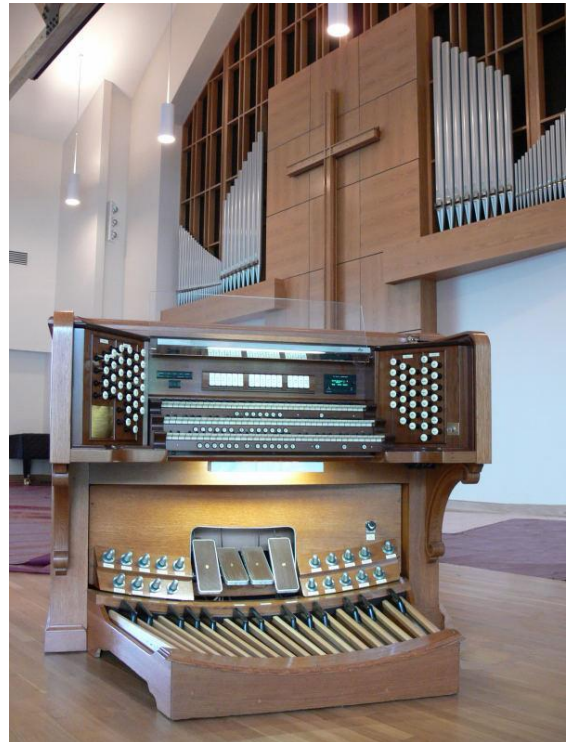


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Campbellsville University Kentucky



Campbellsville University has a historic 1894 Farrand & Votey pipe organ, originally built for Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville, TN. In 2007, we relocated the instrument to Campbellsville University installing it in their new Ransdell Chapel. During the move to Campbellsville, we converted the console and relay system to solid-state and refurbished much of the instrument. At that time, the internal note pouches were still in good operating condition and had several years of life remaining in the leather. Now, 10 years later, the note pouches and primary actions are beginning to fail.

By coordinating with the University, the work of replacing the leather pouches would be done in several stages. This way, the organ could still be used with little disruption to the classes being held. We started with refurbishing the Swell division, splitting it into two stages. Several hundred note pouches and primaries were removed from the chests and transported back to our workshop. After the Swell division, we moved to the Choir to continue the project. This past summer, we completed the re-leathering project with the Great division. Below is a letter

we received from Dr. Wesley Roberts after the work was completed.

August 17, 2018

Dear Dennis,

It is my pleasure on behalf of Campbellsville University to write expressing our thanks and appreciation for the fine work your staff and technicians have done re-leathering our Farrand and Votey organ over the past two years. The attention to detail and expertise which was given to the instrument was top-notch in every way and the result is superb. As a result of your work, students, faculty, administration, and our community will continue to enjoy this fine instrument for many years to come.

Please pass along our thanks to everyone involved in this large project. Each person worked efficiently and with the greatest care as if the instrument was their very own. Their approach to the project was professional in all aspects and accomplished with integrity. I know you are pleased to have such a supportive group of professionals on the company's staff.

Everyone here joins me in sending our best wishes for your continued success!

Cordially, Wesley Roberts – Professor of Music



Saint Cecilia Convent – Nashville, TN



Saint Cecilia has a rich history in the Nashville area starting in 1860. The sisters arrived in Nashville from Somerset Ohio to start an academy for young ladies on the twenty-five-acre plot secured by the Bishop. St. Cecilia Academy opened in a two-story frame building in October. The Confederate States were organized in February 1861 and the civil war had started. From St. Cecilia's roof, girls watched the Stars and Stripes raised over the state Capitol. Federal troops encamped to the north and west of the St. Cecilia grounds. Academy classes continued throughout the war, guarded by Union sentinels. St. Cecilia's first graduation was held in the completed concert hall, with grounds lighted by railroad lanterns.

In 1978, Milnar Organ rebuilt the chapel's Henry Pilcher's Sons Opus 576, 1907 pipe organ. Since then, we have maintained the organ and are now maintaining the Wicks organ in their new chapel as well. This past fall, we completed a full re-voicing of the pipe and electronic ranks. Also, a high-pressure reservoir was added for wind stabilization.



Saint Bartholomew Episcopal – Nashville, TN

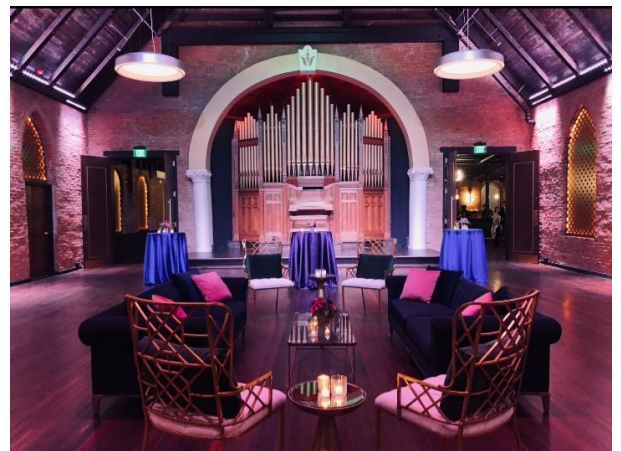


Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal has a beautiful II Manual Austin/Milnar Organ. We completed additions last March that really boosted the overall volume. The organ addition consisted of a new 8' and 16' Trumpet and an 8' Principal in the façade. Also, we added another rank to the existing Mixture in the Great to create a III Rank Mixture.

While leaving the Great division playable, we dismantled the Swell stop actions for refurbishing. A bellows was installed for the new Trumpet in the Great. The addition completed the Principal Chorus of the organ. All the pipe ranks blended together beautifully without considerable voicing. The congregation was very happy with the new look and sound of the organ.



Clementine Hall Venue – Nashville, TN



West Nashville United Methodist was one of several Methodist churches to close in 2018. We were asked to help sell the 1906 Kilgen and Son tracker organ. Fortunately, the purchaser of the building wanted to preserve the organ for its new event venue called Clementine Hall. The entire building was restored for the new venue

and we protected the organ during the construction. After the construction work was done, we started our cleaning of the entire organ.

We installed a new Ventus blower with baffle box to silence the blower. All the pipes were removed, cleaned, and the 33-pipe façade was transported to our workshop for re-painting. The pipe organ turned out beautiful in its newly remodeled room. Today, the hall is enjoying musical performances and formal weddings. If you're interested in booking an event, you can view their website at: www.clementinehall.com.



Cumberland University - Lebanon, TN



Organ installed on three levels at old location - Lifeway Christian



Organ installed at new location -Cumberland

Cumberland University in Lebanon, recently hosted the Senate Debate between Republican nominee Marsha Blackburn and Democratic nominee Phil Bredeson, located in their historic Baird Chapel. Cumberland University has a long history with 15 past U.S. Senators having held degrees from the school.

Lifeway Christian Resources in Nashville was moving to a new facility and donated their II manual Wicks organ to Cumberland University.

Mr. James Jordan, an organist and finance employee at Lifeway, helped facilitate the search for a new home.

We removed the 25-foot-tall organ and completely re-configured it to fit on one level in its new home. We updated the console and replaced the relay with Peterson electronic systems. We designed the casework which was constructed by Tim Stockton, a craftsman from Lebanon.

After the final voicing was completed, Mr. Jordan was so impressed with the sound of the organ that he called Mrs. Sharron Lyon, another past organist at Lifeway, to insist that she come to hear it. The organ has never sounded so good.

John Lucianno - Addition to the MOC crew!



John Lucianno began apprenticing at the Milnar Organ Company in October of 2018. John is an organist and parish musician that has served churches in Tennessee, Minnesota and Oklahoma. Currently, he is the Director of Music at St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Nashville. John earned his Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance from St. Olaf College and his Master of Music from the University of Oklahoma. He currently resides in Antioch, TN with his wife Emily.



www.milnarorgan.com

A Warm Welcome to Our New Clients!

- Christ Fellowship Baptist Church
Mobile, Alabama
- Our Lady of the Mont
Lookout Mountain, Georgia
- First United Methodist
Martin, Tennessee
- Cumberland University
Lebanon, Tennessee