

The Organ at Saint Martin Roath History and Specification



The Organ at Saint Martin's Roath

The first organ at St. Martin's was a small instrument which was borrowed from All Saints Church in 1902 (there is no information available regarding this organ or from which Church it came)

This instrument was replaced by a one manual and pedal organ but this was soon found to be inadequate for the needs of the Church. It was sold to the Parish of Coedycerniw. The next instrument was another small instrument built by the local Cardiff firm of Gill. Some of its pipes were brought from an older organ in a Southampton Church. This organ is still in use at St. Anne's Church in Croft Street, Roath.

In 1905 a new instrument was built at St. Martin's by Phipps of Oxford. It was a two manual tracker action and pedal. It occupied a chamber above the south Choir

The Specification of the 1905 Phipps Organ

Swell		Great		Pedal	
Bourdon	16'	Double diapason	16'	Open diapason	16'
Horn diapason	8'	Open diapason	8'	Large bourdon	16'
Dulciana	8'	Salicional	8'	Bourdon	16'
Flute	8'	Clarabella	8'	Trombone	16'
Principal	4'	Principal	4'		
Flute	4'	Harmonic flute	4'		
Piccolo	2'	Fifteenth	2'		
Mixture	3 Ranks	Mixture	3 ranks		
Horn	8'	Trumpet	8'		
Oboe	8'	Clarinet	8'		
Tremulant					

Couplers

Usual unison couplers

Swell Octave

Great Octave

Pedal Octave

This instrument was destroyed when the Church was bombed during the war on Ash Wednesday 1941. Services with Music were transferred to St. Cyprian's, a daughter church in the Parish where there was a Two Manual Organ by Phipps of Oxford. When this Church closed in the 1950's the organ was sold to St. Mary's, Glyntaff 1956.

The 1955 Organ at St. Martin's

This instrument was dedicated on December 17th 1955. Its nucleus was a second hand organ by William Hill and was bought by the parish from Richmond College of Divinity - London (Cost £5, 5000)

The organ consisted of fifteen ranks distributed over 3 manuals and pedals. The John Compton Organ Company proposed the addition of four extended ranks - Viola da gamba and Trumpet on the Swell, Bourdon on the Great and Dulciana on the Choir. The Pedal Organ has the usual extensions and the present specification is:

Swell		Great		Choir	
Open diapason	8'	Bourdon	16'	Double dulciana	16'
Viola de gamba	8'	Open Diapason	8'	Gamba	8'
Voix celeste	8'	Mixture 2 ranks		Lieblich gedackt	8'
Rohr flute	8'	Stopped diapason	8'	Dulciana	8'
Principal	4'	Principal	4'	Wald flute	4'
Gambette	4'	Stopped flute	4'	Dulcet	4'
Fifteenth	2'	Twelfth		Dulcet Twelfth	2 2/3
Mixture	3 ranks	Fifteenth	2'	Acuta	2 ranks
Double trumpet	16'			Clarinet	8'
Trumpet	8'			Tremulant	
Oboe	8'				
Clarion	4'				
Tremulant					
Pedal		Couplers			
Principle	8'	Swell octave		Great to Pedal	
Open Diapason	16'	Swell sub octave		Swell to Pedal	
Bourdon	16'	Swell to Great		Choir to Pedal	
Octave	8'	Swell to Choir			
Bass flute	8'	Great to Choir			
Flute	4'				
Double Trumpet	16'				
Contra bourdon	32'				
Fifteenth	4'				

The Specifications in **Red** were added in 1987

Roger Taylor - Organ Builder carried out a general cleaning and refurbishment of the organ in 1987. At that time one of the Open Diapasons on the Great was removed and the pipe work was made playable on the Pedal Organ as a Principle/Fifteenth unit. The vacated slide on the Great Organ was fitted with a new 2 rank Mixture. The bottom Octave of the Swell Trombone, which also doubles up as the Pedal reed, was re-positioned outside of the Swell box to increase the power.

The Organ 2008

In January 2008 further work was begun on the Organ at St Martin's. The action of the instrument was becoming increasingly unreliable and some parts of the organ were prone to failure due to the age and state of the old electro system which was original in 1955.

A new oak drawstop console with roll top has been built and supplied – the existing ivory keys, the pedals and organ bench and swell assemblies have been retained and refurbished and fitted into the new console.

New long drawstop solenoids were supplied and fitted together with new engraved heads on the draw stops.

A new solid state multi level piston capture system has been supplied and a full range of general, divisional and reverser thumb and toe pistons were fitted.

The former electro mechanical switches and relays were removed and a NEW SOLID STATE system was supplied and fitted. The wiring in the console and up to the solid state system in the organ chamber was renewed.

New D.C. returns in the organ chamber were fitted, together with separate fuses for each circuit. A new D. C. power supply unit was fitted.

The Specification of the Organ in 2011 is now

The Great Organ

Trumpet 1'
Mixture II
Fifteenth 2'
Twelfth 2 2/3'
Stopped Flute 4'
Principal 4'
Stopped Diapason 8'
Open Diapason 8'
Bourdon 16'

The Choir Organ

Tremulant
Trumpet 8'
Clarinet 8'
Acuta II
Fifteenth 2'
Twelfth 2 2/3'
Dulcet 4'
Wald Flute 4'
Dulciana 8'
Lieblich Gedackt 8'
Double Dulciana 16'

The Swell Organ

Tremulant
Octave
Unison off
Sub Octave

Clarion 4'
Oboe 8'
Trumpet 8'
Double Trumpet 16'
Mixture III
Fifteenth 2'
Gambette 4'
Principal 4'
Gamba 8'
Voix Celeste 8'
Rohr Flute 8'
Open Diapason 8'

Couplers

Swell to Great
Choir to Great
Great top Pedal
Great & Pedal Pistons
Swell to Choir
Swell to Pedal
Great to Pedal
Choir to Pedal

The Pedal Organ

Trombone 16'
Fifteenth 4'
Flute 4'
Bass Flute 8'
Principal 8'
Octave 8'
Bourdon 16'
Open Diapason 16'
Contra Bourdon 32'

The Organ at Saint Martin's is extensively used throughout the year. Its main use is to accompany the Liturgical Services that take place every week on Sundays and Feast days that punctuate the Church year especially around the time of Easter, Christmas and the St Martintide Festival. These are very demanding times musically in the life of the Parish. It is used for weddings and funerals throughout the year.

A number of Public Concerts take place through the year at which the Organ is used. Students from the University and other musicians use the organ for music practice.

Several local Schools including Cardiff High School and Rhydapenau Primary School come to the Church for their annual Christmas Services. This involves over 1000 people who in some way participate with the pupils in the Services.

The Organ is regularly maintained and tuned by Roger Taylor who has had this responsibility for a number of years.

