

St. John's pipe organ was commissioned 1982 and installed by the Reuter Organ Company in 1984. The original cost of \$60,000 included 4 ranks of pipes, approximately 350 pipes. Those first 4 ranks were Gedeckt, Principal, Gemshorn, and Rohrflöte. The console was prepared for the rest of the future stops. Later in 1984, the Spitz Principal, Hautbois (Oboe), and Gemshorn Celeste were added. Two more additions were completed. In 1986, the Nasat and Tierce were installed; then in 1987 the final stops, Octave and Mixture III were added. Total number of ranks today is 11 consisting of over 1,400 pipes. Another \$20,000 was raised to complete the instrument as it is today. Organ specifications.

The organ console has capture action presets controlling the tab stops. Two manuals, the Great (lower keyboard) and the Swell (upper keyboard) make up the key desk. The console is secured by a lockable roll top closure. Eight pistons can be manually preset along with nine additional toe studs. A tenth toe stud activates the Cymbelstern*.

Fundraising for the instrument came from the 500 families of the congregation. Some of the fundraising efforts included rummage sales, auction of services, a shrimp boil, a choir evensong service, and a wine and cheese concert. The Episcopal Church Women donated, as did individual parishioners.

*The pipe organ also includes a stop for a set of Chimes, though chimes were never installed. The Cymbelstern, meaning Cymbal Star, is an organ stop consisting of a metal or wooden star or wheel on which several small bells are mounted. When engaged, the star rotates, producing a continuous bells tinkling sound. It was common in northern Europe, Germany in particular, throughout the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries.

Our present 2023 instrument is still completely functional. The initial installation did not include a fine tonal workup of the pipes, or as known as a finishing. The pipes manufactured in a workshop would need a finishing once installed in its working location. In the year 2021 the organ was brought to the next level by voicing all of the pipes and some minor component restoration to continue bringing many years of service to our congregational support, choral, hymns, weddings, and funerals.

The electrical components of our instrument have stood the test of time over the past thirty-nine years. No major work has been done, and miraculously the Reuter Organ continues to support our music worship. St. John's hired the organ consulting firm of RJ Rusczyk Organ, Inc. to evaluate the condition of our organ asset. It was determined our instrument needs some immediate attention regarding electrical modification to meet present day code. A full tuning, tonal finishing, keyboard and pedalboard regulation and some pipe voicing was required to bring the organs condition from a C- rating to an A rating. Like all mechanical devices, our instrument needed some maintenance to allow it to continue St. John's music ministry for years to come.

May 29, 2021, Rusczyk Organ, Inc. completed the keyboard and pedalboard regulation making all keyboard keys travel at the same depth when pressed, with the same velocity and response. This maintenance created an even action making the instrument easier and more pleasant to use.

January 31, 2022, and February 1, 2022, Rusczyk Organ, Inc. voiced the entire organ known as tonal work, and tuned the entire instrument. Although the organ had been tuned frequently over its time at St. John's it had never been tonally voiced. When the organ was built, the tonal work should have been done immediately after it was installed in 1984. That step in the setup process had not been done. Upon the completion of the voicing tonal work on February 1, 2022, I'll equate it to someone speaking with a mellifluous quality to their voice. This is typically a once-in-a-lifetime task for an instrument. Regular tuning will continue.

August 2, 2022, Rusczyk Organ, Inc. moved the Reuter console from the loft to the Sanctuary's main floor.