



Minneapolis, Minnesota—Central Lutheran Church

Four manuals and pedals, 78 stops, 107 ranks

Detached drawknob console, compass 61/32

Electro-pneumatic action

Casavant Opus 2722 (1963); Restoration 2008

Photograph: Jean-Luc Hébert

Central Lutheran was incorporated in 1919 as a thoroughly American (i.e. not an ethnic parish) Lutheran church in downtown Minneapolis. The congregation grew so rapidly that, by 1925, it was decided to build the present sanctuary, a neo-Gothic type cathedral with a seating capacity of 3000. Dedicated in 1928, it was believed to be the largest Lutheran cathedral-type structure in North America.

The Casavant organ installed in 1963 is among the best examples of Lawrence Phelps' work at Casavant, with a well-balanced tonal scheme, refined voicing treatment, and striking visual design. Over the years, Casavant did minor maintenance work on the organ in collaboration with Representative Thomas Erickson. In 1985, a new solid-state combination system was installed in the original console, and controls were added to operate the Swell and Choir nave shutters separately. In 1991-2, reed stops were returned to the Casavant workshop to be reconditioned, especially to improve tuning stability, which had been a problem for a number of years.

In 2007, we undertook the first comprehensive restoration of the instrument, which was thoroughly cleaned and re-leathered. Damaged pipes were repaired. The façade pipes that could not be repaired were replaced as new with pipes of similar construction. The console was refurbished; the combination system was upgraded, a new solid-state switching system was provided and the console was made MIDI compatible. Tonal re-regulation on site was done by Casavant voicers to recapture the organ's original tone.

Great Organ		Swell Organ	
Prinzipal	16	Lieblichgedackt	16
Prinzipal	8	Geigenprinzipal	8
Gedackt	8	Viol	8
Gemshorn	8	Viol Schwebung	8
Oktav	4	Rohrflöte	8
Rohrflöte	4	Oktav	4
Quinte	2 ² / ₃	Spitzflöte	4
Superoktav	2	Oktavine	2
Blockflöte	2	Mixtur IV	2
Kornett V (Tenor C)	8	Scharf IV	1
Mixture IV	1 ¹ / ₃	Trompete	16
Scharf IV	² / ₃	Trompete	8
Posaune	16	Oboe	8
Trompete	8	Vox Humana	8
Klarine	4	Klarine	4
Spanische Trompete (horizontal)	8	Tremulant	
Positiv		Choir	
Quintade	16	Salizional	8
Prinzipal	8	Salizional Schwebung	8
Gedackt	8	Gedacktflöte	8
Oktav	4	Concert Flöte	8
Koppelflöte	4	Erzähler	8
Nasat	2 ² / ₃	Erzähler Schwebung	8
Italienisch Prinzipal	2	Prinzipal	4
Terz	1 ³ / ₅	Gemshorn	4
Quintflöte	1 ¹ / ₃	Nachthorn	4
Sifflöte	1	Waldflöte	2
Mixtur IV	1	Sesquialtera II	2 ² / ₃
Zimbel IV	¹ / ₂	Mixtur III	1
Krummhorn	8	Fagott	16
Trompete	4	Englisch Horn	8
		Rohrschalmei	4
		Tremulant	

Pedal Organ

Untersatz (ext.)	32
Prinzipal	16
Subbass	16
Quintaton	16
Gemshorn	16
Oktav	8
Gedackt	8
Gemshorn	8
Oktav	4
Rohrpfeife	4
Mixtur III	4
Scharf IV	1 1/3
Kontra Posaune (independent)	32
Posaune	16
Rankett	16
Trompete	8
Klarine	4
Oboe	4

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