

An Organ Thanksgiving

3 November 2022

*A program of organ music, played on the instrument at
Cutlerville East Christian Reformed Church
in thanks for the organ and the people who made it possible.*

The organ at Cutlerville East is now sixty-two years old. Built by the Wicks Organ Company of Highland, Illinois, and installed by Donald Swem in 1960, it has been a source of inspiration to many worshipers in times of happiness and sorrow. The small instrument of nine stops was designed by Joseph Sullivan, organist and choirmaster at St. Andrew's Cathedral (1947--1984), and it was gradually enlarged to thirty-two ranks of pipes under the care of Raymond Haan. With the exception of four new stops (imported from Ireland and installed by James Lauck of Kalamazoo in 1987) the organ has grown gradually with stops from other instruments because of the generosity and love of individuals in the congregation. Various stops have been installed by William Swem, grandson of Donald Swem. Bill has cared for this instrument with uncommon devotion and ingenuity from the early 1970's until this time. (A note for the financially curious: the original organ with its nine sets of pipes was purchased for \$15,000. The present enlarged instrument, which is of modest size in the world of organs, has been insured for replacement value of \$1,000,000.)

The purpose of this program is to remember those who have given in any way for the enhancement and maintenance of this instrument. We will always be thankful for their contributions of encouragement, money, skill, and love. The music tonight will highlight the stops they have given as we remember the contributions they have made or the joy they took in hearing or playing this instrument. Some of the music we present was written in thanks to those persons or in their memory. Other pieces were written to highlight the stop they donated. All of the music is presented to show how the love and care of many persons have blossomed into varied and beautiful sounds. It is possible that we have forgotten some person or persons, and we apologize for any oversights we have made.

Kathleen Herrema
Raymond Haan

*Since this is a program of thanksgiving for those who have
loved this organ and given for it, let your applause
be in your heart for the gifts of those people.
If you have questions or appreciation,
we would love to speak to you after the program.*

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1. John Apol. John Apol served as organist from 1956 to the 1980's, and he and his wife Dorothy were devoted choir members. John loved to play this happy piece every year at Christmastime. In two places you will hear a melody on the English Horn, a quiet solo stop donated by Raymond and Claretta Haan in memory of Marinus De Ruyter, Claretta's father.

Pastorale (from Le Prologue de Jesus) Anonymous, arr. Joseph W. Clokey

2. Arnold and Pearl Vander Hart. Arne was a donor and helper whose love for music would be impossible to surpass. Because low organ sounds were his particular joy, he and Pearl donated the 16' Tuba stop on the pedal. It is called the Vander Hart 16'. He and **Phillip Haan** were also the relentless impetus for the addition of the 32' Reed (electronic) in the pedal. Near the conclusion of the following piece you will hear the Vander Hart 16', and soon after that the Reed 32' will join.*

When the Lord Shall Judge the Nations American melody

Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

When the Lord shall judge the nations,
He will judge with truth and right,
and reveal to realms and kingdoms
both His justice and His might.
Let us walk in fear before Him,
let us journey in His light,
for God is marching on. --RHH

3. Richard Herrema and his siblings donated a soft flute stop in memory of their father Ralph, who sang in the choir, and who also fathered at least two generations of remarkable musicians. The first of the following two pieces was written specifically for that flute stop and was dedicated to the Herrema family. Rich served on the committee that recommended the purchase of this organ, and he also served many years as a choir member and as frequent soloist with the choir. "Jesus, Lead Thou On" was dedicated to Rich and Teresa, Kathy's parents.

The Lord is My Shepherd (A reflection on Psalm 23:1 and 2)

Jesus Lead Thou On Tune by Adam Drese, 1697

Jesus lead Thou on till our rest be won;
and although the way be cheerless,
we will follow, calm and fearless.
Guide us by Thy hand to our fatherland. --Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1725

4. Louise Visser, a long-time, dedicated choir member, donated the Oboe 8' stop in memory of her husband Don. The next piece was dedicated to Louise, Kathy's dear friend. The Oboe sings the melody in this piece, which is an excerpt from a longer piece based on the familiar tune.

This Is My Father's World Tune by Franklin L. Sheppard

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world. I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas--His hands the wonders wrought. --Maltbie D. Babcock (1858--1901)

*An 8-foot stop sounds the same pitches as a piano. A 4' stop sounds one octave higher, and a 16' stop sounds an octave lower. A 32' stop sounds two octaves lower than an 8' stop. The lowest pipe of a 32' metal set is thirty-two feet long--hardly a surprise

5. Joseph L. Sullivan (organist at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Grand Rapids, 1947--1984) was Ray's organ teacher. He was also a friend of Ray's family, of Kathy, and of various people in Cutlerville East Church. After he returned to his native Canada in 1984, the Pilcher organ in St. Andrew's was replaced. From that organ we obtained two bright, loud Trumpet 8' stops, made by the Trivo Company. They are the loudest sounds on this organ. We named each one Joe's Trumpet 8', and the louder of the two is playable on the Pedal as well as on the Great. (In the Pedal it has two pitches, called Visser 8' and Visser 4', because it replaces pipes donated by Jack and Mary Visser in the 1980's.)

In the center of the next piece you will hear the Joe's Trumpet 8' played on the top keyboard (called the Swell) and still another trumpet played on the bottom keyboard (called the Great). We acquired that second Trumpet and several other stops through Jack and Mary Visser from Dr. Dwight Monsma, who had housed them in his garage with the rest of the Schantz organ from the First Protestant Reformed Church of Grand Rapids. So, you will hear a Catholic Trumpet 8' stop played by one hand and a Protestant Reformed Trumpet 8' stop played by the other hand--on a Christian Reformed organ. Eclectic, indeed.

The Fifers (Rondeau) Jean-Francois d'Andrieu, 1682--1738

6. Alberdeen Te Slaa was one of the original organists at Cutlerville East, serving from 1956 for more than fifty years. Dee and her husband Marv were constant supporters of the music program, and Dee was also a long-time choir member. The first of these two pieces was written in her memory, the second in memory of Marv. At the end of "It Is Well" you will hear the Joe's Trumpet 8' on the Great, the loudest stop on the organ.

Prelude on "When Peace, Like a River"

Tune by Philip P. Bliss, 1876

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say:
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain: It is well with my soul;

It is well, it is well with my soul. --Horatio G. Spafford, 1828--1888

Prelude on "Here I Raise My Ebenezer" Tune: Nettleton (in John Wyeth's *Repository*, 1810)

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I'm come,
and I hope by Thy good pleasure safely to arrive to home.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

--Robert Robinson, 1757

7. Harold and Esther Huizenga. Without Harold Huizenga much would be missing. He constructed two of the wind chests for the organ, attached strong metal grips to the chamber wall to assist entrance from the ladder, donated an unstoppable stop watch, engineered a recording system for the choir, constructed a back for the organ bench, and assisted in numerous other ways. Harold and Esther donated our French Horn 8'.

8. Geneva Hoolsema. Geneva has been a supporter and encourager for many years, and she was also a devoted choir member. After her husband Henry died, she donated a quiet string celeste stop, called the Hoolsema Celeste 8'. (Celeste stops make a sweet sound by using two sets of pipes, one slightly out of tune with the other.) In this piece you will also hear the lovely soft Flute Celeste stop donated by . . .

9. Herbert De Maagd in memory of his wife, Lois. Both Herb and his wife were long-time singers in the choir, Herb being a great asset to the tenor department because of his remarkable ability to read music.

Air This little piece begins with the Hoolsema Celeste. Then the Huizenga French Horn sings the tune. The De Maagd Flute Celeste provides an interlude, which is repeated by the Hoolsema Celeste. The Huizenga Horn returns with the melody, and the piece ends with a flute solo.

10. Harvey Herrema, brother to Rich, was a member of the original organ committee. He served as organist from 1955 to 1961. Harvey was a musical phenomenon who could not read music but could play anything he heard in any key. One recalls him at our console, relaxed, enjoying the sounds, and sometimes surveying the congregation as he played. At the time of his death in 2010 he was learning to play our final piece, one of his favorites. Harvey was Kathy's uncle, and she took his place at the console in 1965, four years after he moved to Columbus, Ohio.

With this music we also gratefully call to mind **THE MANY OTHER PERSONS** (unnamed in this program and some unknown to us) who have lovingly and generously contributed to the growth and care of this instrument throughout the years. We give thanks to God for the gift of this organ and for the many friends who have taken joy in it with us.

"Pilgrim's Chorus" from *Tannhauser* Richard Wagner

O Lord, my hope of heaven eternal,
where I shall dwell in splendors supernal,
receive the grateful thanks I raise:
Thine be the glory and the praise.
Christ shed His precious blood for me,
and through His love I am set free.
My Savior reigns, with glory crowned;
to Him my song shall ever resound--
to Him my song shall ever resound.

And now, dear Home, I with rapture behold thee,
and greet my Lord, who has gone on before me.
O pilgrim staff, your work is o'er,
I'll live with God forevermore.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
I'll live with God forevermore.

--standard text, altered by
Catherine (Kitty) Pott (1934--2013)
(Kitty was a most dedicated choir member,
and her children took part in the choirs
and handbell group at Cutlerville East.)

Concluding Song

Please rise and sing "O Come, My Soul," #204:1,3, 4, and 5 from the blue *Psalter Hymnal*

~~~~~ If you feel moved to assist with the continuing maintenance ~~~~~  
needs of our instrument, you will find an offering plate for your kindness as you leave--  
kindness that will keep this dear old instrument healthy and happy.