

Church Organ Department
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EVOLA MUSIC



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Welcome to the
Evola Music
family !

Central
Woodward
Christian Church,
Troy, Michigan
*Allen Q410 with
Vista and 22 ranks
of pipes*

Bonner
Residence,
Ypsilanti,
Michigan
*Allen Custom 2
manual French
Terrace with
Vista*

Holy Cross
Lutheran Church,
Oxford, Michigan
*Allen Q285 with
Vista*

First Presbyterian
Church, South
Lyon, Michigan
*Allen Q325 with
Vista*

Central Woodward Christian Church chooses an Allen Q410 console to interface with their historic pipes



This is the "Third Life" for Casavant Pipe Organ Opus # 1286 from famed Casavant Freres Organ Co. of Quebec, Canada. This organ began its life in 1928, as an 80 rank pipe organ, built for the massive church on Woodward Avenue in Detroit, Central Woodward Christian Church, Disciples of Christ.

In 1979, after 51 years in Detroit, the church decided to move out of Detroit and build a new, smaller church in the suburbs. The city of Troy was chosen and a church was built. The members of the church did take some of their most beloved possessions with them. One of them was the organ.

Unfortunately there was not enough room in the new church to house all 80 ranks (rows) of pipes. The pipe organ firm of Burger & Shafer was contracted to disassemble, move and reassemble the giant organ in its new home. Only about one half of the organ would fit in the new location. Decisions were made, and 40 ranks of pipes were installed in the new church.

The organ chambers were totally full. There was no space to even walk into them, so you had to crawl or climb. When you opened the door, the wind chest was right up to the opening. The organ was difficult to tune because of the overly compact installation.

And there was another problem. The pipe "scaling" (the ratio between the diameter and the length) was made for a BIG church. The new building was much smaller than the original church, and even at 40 ranks, the organ was overpowering.

Over the years there have been many fine organists that have played this organ, and the latest to take the helm is Patrick Kuhl. Patrick Kuhl is an accomplished organist. He has been a church musician for many years in the metro Detroit area, as well as "Up North" in the summer. He assumed the job as Minister of Music at Central Woodward Christian Church in January 2009. Patrick's last position was at Meadowbrook Congregational Church in Novi where he had enjoyed playing a newer 3 manual Allen organ.

The Casavant console was wearing out with many things not working on it, as well as having limited resources. An Organ Committee was formed and meetings commenced. Jim Evola and I took the committee to see and hear some pipe/digital combination organs in the area that Evola Music has done. We went to First Congregational Church in Rochester and then First Baptist Church in Birmingham. The committee was suitably impressed with the sound of the Allen's digital stops and the ruggedness of build quality, as well as the flexibility and versatility in its musical ability.



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Central Woodward Christian Church, continued from page 1

Next came the design phase. Patrick and I determined that the pipes in the Swell and Choir divisions were beautiful and not too loud for the room. Whereas the pipes in the Great and Solo were too powerful and almost non-usable due to their scaling. The committee was presented with several options for the new console, and the four manual Q410 was chosen.

After that came the investigation of how the pipes would interface with the new console. Access into the pipe chambers was difficult at best. I measured voltages and took notes as to what pipes were on "main chests" and which ones were on "offset chests" or on their own unit chests. I found that the Choir division was on one pitman chest with one primary magnet per note drawing 100ma of 12vdc and the Swell division had two pitman chests drawing about 200ma. The 16' Gedeckt and 16' Bourdon and the 8' Trumpet in the Pedal were all on their own actions. The swell shades and the tremulants also need their own drivers.

Given that information, I ordered the pipe interface board from the Allen Organ Company. They built it to those specifications. We mounted it to the wall of the organ chamber just above the old



wiring "spreader boards" so that connecting the two would be easier.

In 1979 when the organ was installed, they had used many 50-wire cables to wire the console to the pipes.

Organ ranks have 61 notes, so it made for some confusion. Ken Holden and Stephen Warner unbundled all of the cables, and re-bundled them into proper 61-note groups. This was a lot of

Ken Holden tuning pipes in the Choir Division at Central Woodward Christian Church on the new Allen digital/pipe

extra work, but in the end it made for a neater and more logical installation.

The new digital stops are reproduced through 24 audio channels each with it's own speaker. The 22 full range cabinets and 2 large

subwoofers are hidden inside the organ chamber on shelves. The sound of the pipes and the new digital sounds emanate through the same grill cloth covered organ chamber opening.

This has been a big project, but well worth it. The organ makes a much more musical and satisfying sound now, and has a vastly improved range of both tonal colors as well as expression.

Stay tuned for information about concerts on this "new" Allen / Casavant digital pipe combination organ!!

- Lance Luce

Benefits of Attending Workshops

The Allen Organ Department at Evola Music enjoys hosting workshops for organists on a regular basis. Our desire is that these workshops provide the opportunity for those attending to continue to stretch and grow in their skills and abilities. It also provides an excellent opportunity for those with like-minded interests (in this case, playing the organ!) to connect with others in the same field. It is amazing to watch conversations occur at the workshops between attendees as they discover common interests and as they network together – feeding off each other's ideas and creativity. Building connections among other organists is always very encouraging and fun!

Some of our free workshops include:

- **Church Organ for Dummies:** a beginner class that will help you feel more comfortable at a church organ...many churches have pianists that are enlisted to hop on the organ bench and they would love help with navigating the console and explain the function of all those buttons and knobs!
- **MIDI workshop:** If yours is one of the many churches that incorporates contemporary music into your services or would like to find out how to expand your traditional worship using MIDI, this workshop is for you! The seminar covers the basics of MIDI, what it is, and how you can use it in church music
- **Pipe Organ Interfacing:** Could your church benefit from a new digital console? What are the benefits of a pipe/digital combination organ? One of Michigan's foremost experts in pipe/digital interfacing will explain how it is done, and the many different configurations you may encounter, including electro-pneumatic chests vs. Direct electronic vs. tracker.
- **Share the Gift:** sometimes church organists just run out of ideas for music for the Christmas season – and so we offer a workshop where organists can just come together and share their favorite Christmas organ arrangements – thereby sharing new music resources with one another

Please keep an eye on our newsletters and our emails to keep you updated on the next workshop available to meet your needs. If you are not on our list of contacts and are not receiving our emails with our most recent upcoming workshops and concerts, please contact Donna Shinn at donna.shinn@evola.com

Workshops in review - very popular

With the help of our friends who are experts in certain areas, we presented workshops in Pipe Interfacing, Music Sharing, MIDI and the most popular workshop we have ever done, "Church Organ for Dummies". There is no "dumb" question, and we did our very best to answer the most obvious beginner questions as well as taking questions from the attendees. In fact, the seminar was so popular, that we are going to do it again this year...be on the lookout for the invitation.



Pierre Fracalanza (MIDI expert extraordinaire)
Lance Luce (assistant professor)

MIDI can be fun and useful. We recruited one of the MIDI "masters" to help with the workshop this year – Pierre Fracalanza. Pierre takes the mystery out of MIDI and makes it look easy.

Lance has great experience and expertise in pipe/digital interfacing and how it is done. This workshop took place on site at one of our installations, also utilizing the skill of Johnny Kash, the church organist. The next workshop will take place at a different installation. You won't want to miss that field trip!

Dedication Concert at First Congregational, Rochester, Draws Large Crowd

It was nice to see a gathering of more than 200 people to hear an organ dedication concert. Pastor David Wheeler made some brief introductions and from that moment forward it was all music. Johnny Kash played a variety of selections to show off the versatility and range of sounds available from this pipe/digital combination organ. Johnny is one of those rare performers who can also transition into a little more "pop" style of music, and utilize some of the MIDI sounds the organ has to offer. Kathy Bowden offered some challenging pieces on the organ, showing her ability as she brought out the best in the new organ. Kathy is multi-talented as we were about to see.

Kathy moved to the piano, and with Johnny at the organ we were given some very nice musical treats with both instruments playing together. The organ did not overpower the piano. They were very well balanced and complimented each other nicely. You can tell by



Johnny Kash (guest organist), Kathy Bowden (Organist), Lance Luce (church organ consultant)

the audience size and reaction that they like their music in Rochester. The church has a beautiful new organ to fill their light filled new sanctuary. Bravo to Kathy and Johnny for a terrific program. How about an encore?

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*Church Organ for Dummies
Workshop planned, see inside for details*

EVOLA MUSIC CHURCH ORGAN DEPARTMENT

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Mail this back to us completed (print please), and we'll send you a CD of organ music, free, for your feedback. Thank you in advance

Name or name of Church _____

Address _____

email address _____

City _____ Zip _____

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> We use an organ in our worship service | <input type="checkbox"/> We use a piano in our worship service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> We use a keyboard in our worship service | <input type="checkbox"/> We use a _____ in our worship service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> We would like you to send information on digital organs | <input type="checkbox"/> We would like you to send information on pianos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> We would like you to send information on keyboards | <input type="checkbox"/> We would like you to send information on _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Our organ is old and needs service or replacing | <input type="checkbox"/> Our piano is old and needs service or replacing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Our keyboard is old and needs service or replacing | <input type="checkbox"/> Our _____ is old and needs service or replacing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> We have some musical instrument needs in our church, can you help us raise the money? | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> We would like to have a free, no obligation, consultation. Please contact us. | |