

# 2017

# ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY • AUGUST 5-11 THE TWIN CITIES • MINNESOTA



Geo. S. Hutchings, Opus 229 (1891) ~ James J. Hill House, Saint Paul

### **WELCOME TO MINNESOTA!**

OHS 62nd Annual Convention Guide

**LAND OF 10,000 LAKES,** source of the Mighty Mississippi, home of the renowned Mayo Clinic, and birthplace of Wheaties and Post-it notes. Scenic beauty, bountiful countryside, and a vibrant metropolitan area are yours to enjoy from August 5 to August 11, 2017.

Minnesota is one of only two states with a French language motto: "L'Etoile du Nord" (Star of the North). The name "Minnesota" comes from the Dakota word for "clear blue water." The Twin Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul are bounded by the Mississippi and Saint Croix river valleys, blessed with miles of scenic riverfront, more than 900 lakes, and over 50 regional parks and park reserves.

If you're looking for arts and culture, you'll find it here. Minnesota has a long and proud history of supporting music

and the arts. Choral singing has long been a Minnesota tradition, with nationally recognized professional ensembles and countless school, community, and church choirs. The Twin Cities boast more theater seats per capita than anywhere in the US outside of New York City. The Cities are also home to over 60 museums, including the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the Walker Art Center, and the Frank Gehry-designed Weismann Art Museum.

Minnesota is a prosperous state in which organ building has flourished. Local builders, past and present, are represented during the convention, including Vogelpohl & Spaeth, Joseph Lorenz, Jan Van Daalen, Charles Hendrickson, K.C. Marrin, and Daniel Jaeckel. Organs by major North American builders are also well represented, including instruments

by A.B. Felgemaker, Johnson & Son, Steere & Turner, Hinners, Kilgen, Wangerin & Weickardt, George S. Hutchings, E.M. Skinner, Aeolian-Skinner, Holtkamp Sr., Casavant Frères, and C.B. Fisk.

The convention is headquartered at the newly renovated InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront, a luxury hotel located atop the bluffs of the Mississippi River. The Minneapolis Saint Paul International Airport (MSP), located 15 minutes from downtown Saint Paul, is a major hub for Delta and Sun Country Airlines. Taxi service is readily available, as is shuttle bus service, to transport you from the airport to the hotel. Amtrak's Empire Builder arrives daily at the Saint Paul Union Depot, approximately six blocks from the hotel.

We look forward to seeing you!

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

THE CONVENTION BEGINS WITH AN OPTIONAL DAY in neighboring Wisconsin, starting with a tour of the historic 1889 Mabel Tainter Theater in Menomonie, home of an 1890 Steere & Turner organ (II/29). The recently renovated edifice was described by CNN as one of the world's most spectacular theaters with marble staircases, hand stenciled artwork, unique stained glass windows, and intricate woodwork. We then proceed four blocks to First Congregational United Church of Christ for lunch, followed by a demonstration of their wonderfully colorful 1894 J.W. Steere & Son organ, Op. 380 (II/19).

We continue up the road to First Baptist Church in Hudson with its beautiful 1863 George Jardine & Son (II/12). Originally built for a Presbyterian church in Pittsburgh, Pa., the organ was relocated to Hudson by riverboat in 1872. The unaltered organ, restored by Minnesota builder K.C. Marrin in 1991–92, retains its hand-pumping mechanism.

Dinner will be on-your-own in one of the many cafés and restaurants along Main Street in charming downtown Hudson. An evening concert with accompanied silent film will follow at the nearby Phipps Center for the Arts featuring the 1926 Rudolph Wurlitzer (III/18) theater organ, originally installed in Saint Paul's Capitol Theater, moved to the KSTP Television Studios in 1957, and relocated to the Phipps Center in 1983.

#### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 6**

CONVENTION REGISTRATION WILL **OPEN ON SUNDAY**, with optional open house visits in Saint Paul's downtown and Cathedral and Summit Hill districts, including the Church of the Assumption with a 1935 Welte-Kimball (II/11), in an original 1883 Odebrett & Abler case; Unity Church-Unitarian with Noack Opus 19, 1965 (III/44), an early organ-reform three manual mechanical action organ; a modest 1919 Hall (II/12), in the Virginia Street (Swedenborgian) Church; Central Presbyterian Church, home of an 1889 Steere & Turner, expanded by Moeller (III/40), and a spirited 1956 Rieger positive (I/9); the Church of Saint Louis, King of France with an ornately encased 1998 Casavant Frères mechanical action organ (III/57); and the 1891 Geo. S. Hutchings (II/17)



First Baptist Church ~ Hudson, Wisconsin Geo. Jardine & Son (1863)

residence organ in the mansion of Great Northern Railway magnate James J. Hill.

Convention-goers are invited to attend an afternoon evensong in the Anglican tradition at the church of St. John the Evangelist with its 1922 Skinner Organ Company instrument (IV/55), augmented by Moeller (1950) and Schantz (2008).

After time for dinner-on-your-own at one of Saint Paul's many nearby restaurants and pubs, the Convention officially opens at the magnificent Cathedral of Saint Paul/National Shrine of the Apostle Paul, designed by Franco-American architect Emmanuel Louis Masqueray. Construction of the exterior commenced in 1907 and was completed in 1914, but interior work continued over the next 25 years. The visually opulent space reverberates with an 8 second acoustic. The opening concert will be performed on the Aeolian-Skinner gallery organ, Opus 1398 (1959–64) (III/42), revised by Quimby Pipe Organs (2013) (IV/59) and the 1925 chancel organ by E.M. Skinner, Opus 518 (1925) (III/30), playable together.

#### **MONDAY, AUGUST 7**

## ON MONDAY WE TRAVEL ACROSS THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TO MINNEAPOLIS.

In the 1850s, when land west of the Mississippi became available for settlement, two towns grew on either side of the river near St. Anthony Falls. From these towns the City of Minneapolis was formed in 1872. In 1883, Horace W.S. Cleveland presented the city with *Suggestions for a System of Parks and Parkways*. The Minneapolis Grand Rounds has been designated a National Scenic Byway—the nation's first entirely urban scenic byway and one of the country's longest continuous systems of public parks and parkways.

The day begins at Holy Cross Lutheran Church near Minnehaha Park encompassing the lower reaches of Minnehaha Creek and Minnehaha Falls made famous by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in *The Song of Hiawatha*. The 1954 Kilgen Organ (III/24) was designed by William H. Barnes. Its 37-note bar harp was originally installed in 1917 as musical entertainment in a



Central Lutheran Church ~ Minneapolis Casavant Frères Ltée, Opus 2722 (1963)

penthouse garden atop the Metropolitan Building in downtown Minneapolis, torn down in 1961.

We then travel across town to Mount Olive Lutheran Church for a recital on the 1966 Schlicker organ (III/55). The instrument was designed by Paul Manz (1919-2009), composer of organ and choral music and cantor and organist at Mt. Olive from 1948 to 1983.

We then proceed to Prospect Park United Methodist Church and historic Pratt Community School across the street. The buildings are located at the foot of Tower Hill Park below the "Witch's Hat" built in 1913 as a water tower on the highest point in Minneapolis. The tower also was intended for use as a bandstand, but musicians found it too difficult to

carry instruments up the narrow spiral staircase. A and B groups alternate with a leisurely lunch at the school and a lecture-recital on the Prospect Park UMC Hinners Organ (II/13) installed in this intimate church in 1927.

Central Lutheran Church was founded in 1919 by Norwegian Lutherans as an English-only church. The neo-gothic building in downtown Minneapolis was dedicated in 1928, with membership peaking at over 6,000 in the late 1960s. The Casavant Frères Ltée organ, Opus 2722 (IV/107), installed in 1963, is among the best examples of Lawrence Phelps' work at Casavant, with its striking visual aspect and bold tonal design.

Dinner is on-your-own at one of the many fine restaurants and cafés along

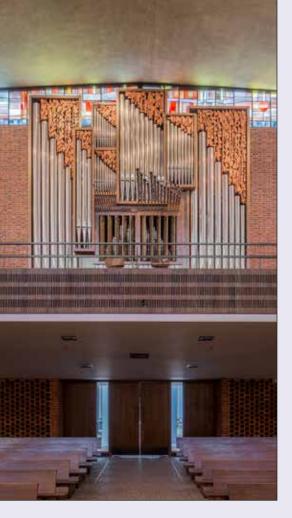
Nicollet Mall in the heart of downtown. The evening concert is at the Basilica of St. Mary located on its own city block on the edge of downtown Minneapolis. Opened for worship in 1914, it was established as a basilica by Pope Pius XI in 1926, making it the first basilica in the United States. The Beaux-Arts edifice, designed by Emmanuel Masqueray, is reverberant and splendid. The Wicks Organ Company instrument, installed in 1949, incorporates design and scaling elements influenced by Henry Vincent Willis. A 2008 renovation included a new relay and console. The original 46 rank organ has been expanded considerably, and now consists of 82 ranks in six divisions with four manuals and pedal.

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 8

ON TUESDAY WE TRAVEL INTO SOUTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA, traversing the Minnesota River Valley. Our first stop is the town of Saint Peter, founded in 1853, originally intended to be the capital of the new State of Minnesota. As legislators were preparing to vote on the location of the capital, fur trader Joseph Rolette absconded with the bill that would have named Saint Peter the capital and hid it until after the legislature voted for Saint Paul. Today forty of the town's structures are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Minnesota organ builder Charles Hendrickson established his firm in St. Peter in 1964. At First Lutheran Church we will hear one of his many mechanical action organs, Opus 45 (II/44), built by Hendrickson in 1978 for this, his home church. The building designed by South Dakota architect Harold Spitznagel, includes a brick bas-relief sanctuary wall by liturgical artist Robert Alden. The motifs, including abstract birds near the top, provided inspiration for the pipe shades and the asymmetrical case design of the organ. Lunch and the Annual Meeting follow at nearby Gustavus Adolphus College.

We then travel to Bernadotte, a tiny hamlet just outside New Ulm, with three or four houses, an old creamery, and Bernadotte Lutheran Church. The "Country Cathedral," erected in 1897, stands tall amid the cornfields. The 1898 H.H. Vogelpohl & Sons organ (II/16) was built by an important Minnesota firm founded by Herman H. Vogelpohl in New Ulm around



First Lutheran Church ~ St. Peter Hendrickson Organ Co. (1978)

1885. The Vogelpohl company built some 100 organs over 30 plus years, mostly for churches in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Dakotas.

Next stop is New Ulm (Neu-Ulm), founded in 1854 by settlers from Bavaria. In the Dakota War of 1862, New Ulm was attacked twice by Dakota warriors from a nearby reservation. Much of the town outside the city center was burned. In 2008, St. George's R.C. Church celebrated the 150th anniversary of the building of their original log cabin church. The 1904 Vogelpohl & Spaeth instrument (II/15) in the present church is a splendid example of organs built by the Vogelpohl firm.

Dinner this evening will be on the campus of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Mankato, followed by a concert in the Chapel of Our Lady of Good Counsel. Perched on an imposing hill above the river valley, the chapel is elegant (see calendar cover) and acoustically generous. The 1877 Johnson & Son, Opus 499 (III/53) was built for St. Mary of the Sacred Heart Church in Boston (now demolished). The organ was relocated to Mankato in

1975 through the Organ Clearing House. Upon its arrival, the sisters cleaned the pipes of nearly 100 years of accumulated coal dust, grime, and dirt. Electrified with "pull-down" action in 1927, the organ now has a detached console constructed by Dobson Pipe Organ Builders in 1995, with reference to existing Johnson examples. The pipework is almost completely unaltered and retains its cone tuning which is slightly sharp of modern pitch. Of special note are the three "Johnson & Son Patent Reeds": the Great Trumpet, the Swell Cornopeon, and the Pedal Trombone.

#### **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9**

ON WEDNESDAY WE CONTINUE OUR EXPLORATION OF RURAL MINNESOTA, but to the north, traveling to Stearns County with its rolling hills, woodlands, farms, and lakes. Readers of American literature will recognize the name Sauk Center, the home of writer Sinclair Lewis, who drew attention to the locale with his controversial novel *Main Street*. The 62-mile Lake Wobegon biking and hiking trail passes through communities on our route, commemorating tales made popular by Garrison Keillor's *Prairie Home Companion*.

The first stop is St. Wendelin R.C. Parish Church in rural Luxemburg. Once the site of a native American settlement, this area saw an influx of German and Luxembourger immigrants beginning in the mid-1850s. The church is the home to the oldest still-functioning organ in Minnesota, an English-style one manual with 7 stops and a 13-note pedal by an unknown builder, circa 1845, recipient of OHS citation #11.

Next is Saint John's Abbey and University for a concert in the spacious and resonant Abbey Church of St. John the Baptist, designed by Bauhaus architect Marcel Breuer. The bell banner rises 112 vertical feet in front of the church and houses five bells that sound the hours and call the monastic community to prayer. The north facade of the building is the largest wall of stained glass in the world and contains 430 colorful hexagons of abstract design. The 1961 Holtkamp (III/65), is the last organ built under the personal supervision of Walter Holtkamp, Sr. The free-standing instrument, with its characteristic architecturally arrayed pipe ranks, is largely invisible behind a red acoustically transparent screen at the front and center of the 1,400-seat nave.

Following the recital, lunch will be provided in the Abbey Great Hall adjacent to the church. Convention attendees may optionally see an early K.C. Marrin organ, Opus 6 (1988) (II/25) located in the university's Gertken Music Studio.

In nearby Freeport we will visit Sacred Heart R.C. Parish to hear an organ installed in 1913 by the Wangerin-Weickhardt company, an important Wisconsin builder at the turn of the century. The instrument (II/23) has tubular-pneumatic action with an early application of super couplers and pistons, and makes a satisfying roar in an acoustically advantageous space.

In Richmond, we will visit Saints Peter and Paul R.C. Parish. The present church was built in 1884 in a classic gothic German style. Here we find a remarkable organ by 19th century Minnesota builder, Joseph Lorenz. Only two Lorenz instruments are known to exist today: a small one-manual in private possession, and this robust and colorful organ from around 1888 (II/23).

We conclude the day at the Church of Saint Boniface in Cold Spring, the home parish of organ builder K.C. Marrin. Dinner will be served in the church gathering space,



Sacred Heart Church ~ Freeport Wangerin-Weickhardt Co. (1913)



Church of Saint Boniface ~ Cold Spring K.C. Marrin Company (2013)

followed by a concert on Marrin's 2013 magnum opus (III/55). In 1974, Marrin helped Eric Fiss, a Fargo, North Dakota, builder, install a tracker organ in Shakopee, Minn. That project solidified Marrin's interest in organ building. In 2005, the Fiss organ was damaged in a fire—only the metal pipes and case survived in reusable state. Marrin offered the salvageable components to St. Boniface at no cost. Of the 44 stops in the present organ, 11 came from the Fiss organ and another 2 were fashioned from white oak recycled from the case.

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

#### WE CONTINUE WITH THE OTHER TWIN CITY, SAINT PAUL, ON THURSDAY. Saint Paul, the second largest city in the state, is the state capital. After the War of 1812, the U.S. War Department built a chain of forts between Lake Michigan and the Missouri River, including Fort Snelling, established in 1819, at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers. A whiskey trader, Pierre "Pigs Eye" Parrant, banned from the fort, moved to the north bank of the Mississippi river and settled in what is now downtown Saint Paul. By the early 1840s, Saint Paul was an important trading center and stopping point for settlers heading west.

House of Hope Presbyterian Church was established in the Minnesota Territory in 1855, and moved to its current location in the Summit Hill district in 1914. The 1979 C.B. Fisk in the sanctuary balcony was designed by, and was the last organ installation personally supervised by, Charles Fisk. At the time of its construction, the four-manual, 97 rank, 63 stop organ was the largest modern mechanical action instrument in the United States. The 1878 Josef Merklin organ (II/13) in the sanctuary chancel, built for the Saint Laurent Church in Aubenas, southern France, and restored by Fisk in 1987, is perfect for French romantic music and choir accompaniment.

Next is Jehovah Lutheran Church, organized in 1923. The striking modern concrete and glass structure is another design by South Dakota architect Harold Spitznagel, completed between 1962 and 1966, with contributions by artist Palmer Eide. The 1983 mechanical action organ (III/49) was designed, installed, and voiced by Jan Van Daalen, a Dutchman who came to Minnesota around 1969. And, working with his partners at Pels & van Leeuwen in the Netherlands, he created a considerable number of mostly mechanical action instruments in and around Minnesota.

First Baptist Church of Saint Paul was organized in 1849 in the Minnesota Territory. Its 1875 gothic-revival building, still in use today, was once described by the *Saint Paul Pioneer Press* as "the finest piece of architecture west of Chicago." The 1875 Steer and Turner organ (III/38) was substantially modified over the years. The firm of Grandall and Engen reconstituted the organ in 2013 using the remaining 31 original Steer and Turner ranks.

The Church of Saint Mary, across the street, was established in 1865, seven years after Minnesota became a state. Once part of the city center, the church now is tucked into a downtown corner bordered by two interstate freeways. The present structure, erected in 1921, contains a tonally unaltered 1927 Reuter Organ Company instrument, Opus 241 (III/27).

A farewell banquet at the InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront, with its panoramic views of the Mississippi River valley, will be followed by the final evening concert at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in the nearby town of Mahtomedi. The 1927 Casavant Frères Ltée,

Opus 1177 (IV/108) originally was built for Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass. Removed in the 1970s, the organ spent the next sixteen years under less than optimal conditions in a barn in Traverse City, Mich. The instrument was purchased by St. Andrews in 1995. Plans for a full restoration of the chests, console, and mechanisms were abandoned due to significant damage and the loss of critical components. The organ was reconstructed by the Schantz Organ Company and installed in 2001 in the new 1,800 seat sanctuary. New electro-pneumatic chests replaced the original ventil chests, and the reconfigured organ includes a new console (with keyboards from another 1927 Casavant) and a new non-speaking facade. Nearly all of the 7,310 interior pipes are original. The remarkably versatile organ makes a resounding effect in the room.



The House of Hope Presbyterian Church ~ Saint Paul Joseph Merklin (1878)



Sacred Heart Music Center ~ Duluth A.B. Felgemaker, Opus 664 (1897) PHOTO Elizabeth Miller

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

ON FRIDAY WE PROVIDE AN OP-TIONAL TOUR TO DULUTH ON THE SPECTACULAR NORTH SHORE OF LAKE SUPERIOR, the world's largest freshwater lake. The city hugs the shoreline dominated by steep hillsides climbing 820 feet from lake level to the highest elevation. The Duluth-Superior harbor, accessible to oceangoing vessels via the Saint Lawrence Seaway, is the largest seaport on the Great Lakes. Duluth is a tourist destination and a midwest epicenter for banking, business services, higher education, and health care. Like the Twin Cities, Duluth boasts numerous parks, including six along the shore of Lake Superior.

First Lutheran Church was established in 1871. Following a merger in 1945, a new building was erected in 1950 with a view across Leif Erikson Park to Lake Superior. First Lutheran is the home church of Duluth organ builder Daniel Jaeckel, who opened his shop in 1978. Jaeckel Organs Opus 1 (1980), a two manual, 8 rank, tracker action organ is located in the chancel. Jaeckel Opus 52 (III/72), a mechanical action instrument completed in 2011, is in a gallery-level case at the rear of the sanctuary. This architecturally unique case is decorated with bright

red and soft green milk paint. The organ makes a most rewarding visual and aural impact.

After lunch, we continue to Saint Mary Star of the Sea, established as a Polish Catholic Church in 1883. In 1905, the original church burned down and the parish rebuilt in basilica-style with beautiful altar carvings, statutes, and stained glass windows. A mechanical action organ (II/13) was ordered from the catalog of Lyon & Healy of Chicago. The instrument was in use by early 1907, but about the same time the Duluth Roman Catholic Diocese boarded up the church, forcing the Polish Catholics to leave. The Polish congregation moved to the next block and St. Mary remained in the Roman Catholic diocese. Mass is celebrated every day at noon and the organ continues in regular use.

The 1904 Duluth Masonic Temple, a three-story Egyptian-revival hall, houses a W.W. Kimball organ, Opus 4790 (1908). The polychromed pipe façade graces the upper gallery, echoing the Egyptian-style motifs and colors of the hall. The effect is like taking a step back in time. The original organ, with two manuals, tubular-pneumatic action and 15 stops was substantially rebuilt under contract with the Kimball Company in 1937. The attached console was replaced by an electro-pneumatic action console and the size of the organ was increased to 20 stops. Typical

of the time, the tonal concept is decidedly orchestral; the single percussion stop is a short-compass set of tubular chimes.

Our final stop is the Sacred Heart Music Center. Sacred Heart, founded in 1870, was the first Roman Catholic parish in Duluth. The gothic-revival brownstone building, completed in 1896, served as the city's Roman Catholic cathedral until the mid-20th century when it became a parish church. Ordered from a catalog, A.B. Felgemaker Company's Opus 664 (II/26) was shipped by railway and installed in the rear gallery of the church in 1898. In 1985, the Diocese of Duluth announced the building would be closed. Joan Connelly, who had played the Felgemaker since 1930 when she was a high school sophomore, saved the organ (and the building) from demolition by recruiting volunteers and convincing the diocese to sell the church for \$1. The building now serves as a performance space for live music and a venue for events including weddings, mystery theater, and private parties. This mechanical-pneumatic action organ, OHS Citation #228, fills the space with a vibrant and colorful sound, and is Minnesota's most impressive indigenous 19th century pipe organ.

Before returning to Saint Paul, dinner will be shared at First United Methodist Church on Skyline Parkway with a spectacular view of the Duluth Harbor below.

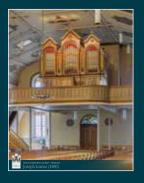


First Lutheran Church ~ Duluth Jaeckel Organs, Opus 52 (2011)

рното Ken Moran















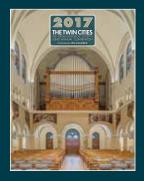












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COVER PHOTO: Chapel of Our Lady of Good Counsel ~ Mankato Johnson & Son, Opus 499 (1877)

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