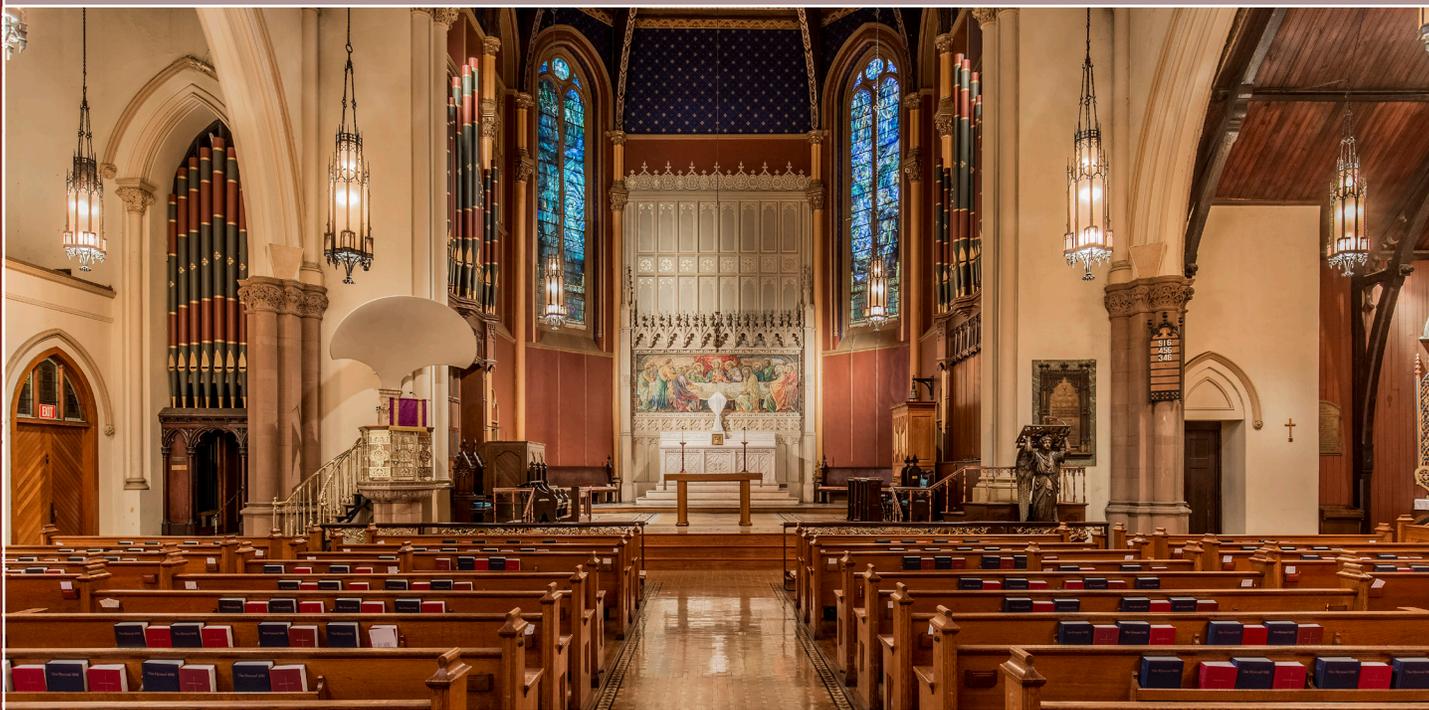


# 2018

ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY • JULY 29–AUGUST 3  
| ROCHESTER • NEW YORK |



Christ Church (Episcopal) ~ Rochester ~ Hook & Hastings, No. 1573 (1893)

## WELCOME TO ROCHESTER!

## *OHS 63rd Annual Convention Guide*

**NESTLED ON THE SOUTHERN SHORE** of Lake Ontario, traversed by the Genesee River and its dramatic downtown waterfalls, and situated on the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, Rochester offers something for the music lover, art aficionado, wine connoisseur, and everyone in between. Visit the world-famous International Museum of Photography, Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester Contemporary Art Center, or any number of more than twenty museums and galleries in the area. Whose curiosity would not be piqued by the Strong National Museum of Play, home to the nation's second-largest collection of antique and collectible toys? A thriving festival culture is part of the vital heartbeat of New York's third largest city, among which are counted the Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festi-

val, Rochester International Film Festival, Fringe Festival, Lilac Festival, the Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative (EROI) Festival, and too many others to innumerate here. And with stunning natural beauty surrounding the city, those who opt to join us for the post-convention day can enjoy a wine tasting in the picturesque Finger Lakes region of upstate New York.

At the core of Rochester's music scene is the Eastman School of Music, the result of George Eastman's vision in 1921 to construct a world-class music conservatory to attract the nation's finest faculty and students. Eastman has remained a leader in performance, composition, scholarship, and education for nearly a century. Since the Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative took flight in the early 2000s, punctuated by the installation of many new landmark

organs, a flourishing organ scene has become a focal point of Rochester's cultural life. More than thirty organ majors studying at Eastman play in liturgical and concert contexts in sacred and secular spaces throughout the city each week, earning a devoted following of pipe organ enthusiasts. Few cities boast such an extraordinary breadth and diversity of instrument types, ranging from original and facsimile 18th-century organs to the roaring Wurlitzers of the Gilded Age, and almost everything in the middle.

Our convention headquarters this year is no ordinary hotel — offering breathtaking views, a resort atmosphere, fine dining, a golf course, and a spa and health club, we are thrilled to call the luxuriously appointed Woodcliff Hotel & Spa our home for this convention week. It will

be an ideal place to spend time reconnecting and relaxing with your cherished friends and colleagues in an idyllic setting. In addition to the convention coach service, taxi and Uber services are available for easy mobility around Rochester's compact metropolitan area. You can find yourself in the heart of any one of Rochester's neighborhoods and at many of our convention locations within five to fifteen minutes.

We so look forward to welcoming you to Rochester and to sharing these extraordinary offerings with you during this 63rd Annual Convention of the OHS. Welcome!

## SATURDAY, JULY 28

**THERE ARE SOME PLACES** that merit multiple and regular visits, and our convention will include one such place on its optional pre-convention day: Ithaca, New York. While the 2014 Syracuse Convention recently devoted a day to this constellation of wonderful instruments, a new French-Romantic organ has further diversified the already impressive collection, and the others remain as fresh and stimulating as ever. Come discover the newly inaugurated 2016 Juget-Sinclair, Op. 45 (II/23), based on models by the great French organbuilder Aristide Cavaillé-Coll at St. Luke's Lutheran Church. Continue from the symphonic *fonds d'orgue* of St. Luke's to the vocal Principals, fundamental Trompets and Posaunes, and liquescent flutes of the 2011 GOArt/Yokota (II/43), based on the 1706 organ built by Arp Schnitger for Schloss Charlottenburg in Anabel Taylor Hall. This company of organs is further enriched with an Italian perspective from Augustinus Vicedomini and his 1746 Neopolitan meantone organ (I/7), restored by Greg Harrold Organbuilders in 2000. Rich in mosaics, Tiffany glass, and polychroming, Sage Chapel features not only this Italian Baroque organ, but also a quintessential G. Donald Harrison "American Classic," the 1940 Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company, Op. 1009 (III/68). None of these instruments are to be missed, particularly in the gorgeous setting of Ithaca with its charming cafés and bookstores coupled with the relaxed summer pace of an otherwise bustling university town.



## SUNDAY, JULY 29

**OUR CONVENTION** officially begins on Sunday with a morning free to enjoy a leisurely brunch at the Woodcliff, perhaps a quick ride to any number of Rochester's beautiful churches for a morning liturgy, or a long walk along the Erie Canal in nearby Pittsford or in Frederick Law Olmsted's Highland Park. As you greet friends arriving from every corner of the world, you will be able to pick up your convention registration and explore the exhibits.

The afternoon begins at the musical epicenter of Rochester: the Eastman School of Music and its three venerable concert halls. As you enter the grand foyer, Lowry Hall, take a moment to peek into the largest of the concert halls, Kodak Hall at the Eastman Theatre, once a 3,250-seat movie palace and concert hall, and now home to the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. Until the 1970s it housed Austin Organ, Op. 1010, hailed as the largest theatre organ in the world at the time of its construction in 1922. Just a few steps away, you will enter Kilbourn Hall, the 444-seat chamber music recital hall and home of 1921 Skinner Organ Company,

### Christ Church (Episcopal) ~ Rochester GOArt/Yokota (2008)

Op. 325 (IV/88), designed in collaboration with Harold Gleason, founder of the Eastman Organ Department. Entirely under expression, and possessing every imaginable orchestral color stop in Skinner's palette to date, it awaits a full restoration as the culmination of the EROI project. We will be treated in this opulent space to a concert of chamber music featuring organ-related keyboard instruments.

The commanding Gothic-Revival tower of Christ Church may have caught your attention en route to Eastman, and you are welcome to participate in an organ demonstration of the two great organs of Christ Church this afternoon. This is an opportunity to learn more about these particular 18th- and 19th-century instruments from those who live and work with them day-to-day, ask questions, and enjoy a more informal, "up-close-and-personal" moment with them. Buses will bring you to the nearby, trendy Park Avenue neighborhood of Rochester for dinner at any number of its dining establishments and shuttle you back to Christ Church for the



St. Joseph's Church (R.C.) ~ Penfield  
Ortloff Organ Company, LLC, Op. 1 (2016)

evening recital. The opening concert of the convention will explore the spectrum of sounds of the Age of Enlightenment using the resources of the 2008 GOArt/Yakota "Craighead-Saunders" organ. A process-reconstruction of a 1776 organ in Vilnius, Lithuania by Adam Gottlob Casparini — a student of one of Bach's preferred organbuilders, Tobias Heinrich Gottfried Trost — its tremendous range of expression may surprise you!

## MONDAY, JULY 30

**WHILE MOST OF** Monday's activities will take place on what is affectionately known as the *East Avenue Organ Walk* — an unusually diverse concentration of in-

struments along Rochester's main avenue — we begin in the nearby suburb of Penfield. The "Opus 1" of an organbuilder is a historic moment indeed, and the 2016 Ortloff Organ Company, LLC, Op. 1 (II/24) at St. Joseph's Catholic Church is the newest addition to Rochester's rich organ scene. Jonathan Ortloff, a former Rochesterian himself, will be among us and will speak to this unique moment in his career.

East Avenue testifies to Rochester's booming industry and affluence in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Admire the procession of mansions and houses that pepper this tree-lined street before arriving at the sleek, mid-century Incarnate Word Lutheran Church. A natural pairing of architecture and acoustic, we'll enjoy the sounds of the American Organ

Reform strikingly juxtaposed with the earnest Pennsylvania sonorities of a century earlier: the 1964 Holtkamp Organ Co., Job 1771 (III/42) and 1869 Samuel Bohler (I/7) restored by Raymond J. Brunner in 2006, respectively.

Groups will visit one of the most anticipated sights of the week, the famous George Eastman House and Museum, in alternation with a break for lunch. Synonymous with the Eastman Kodak Company and with photography itself, George Eastman is to thank for a great deal of Rochester's organ heritage. The unique history of his residence — the oldest museum in the world dedicated to photography — and its two Aeolian organs is astonishing. 1904 Aeolian Company, Op. 947 (III/66) and 1916 Aeolian Company, Op. 1345 (III/40) constitute together one of the largest residence organs in the world (IV/106). The collection of player rolls of the most famous organists of yesteryear affords the opportunity to step back in time and imagine Harold Gleason playing for Mr. Eastman each morning during his breakfast ritual...

We continue our tour at the imposing Gothic-Revival Asbury First Methodist Church and its suave "American Classic" from 1955: Austin Organ, Inc., Op. 2215 (IV/74). Among the largest instruments in town, its expansive tonal scheme characteristically has one foot in the sound world of the past and another in the forward-looking Organ Reform Movement. Those retrospective tendencies crystallize in our visit to one of Rochester's smaller Skinner organs residing in one of its signature ecclesiastic spaces, the Episcopal Church of St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene. Rochester's second church founded in 1817, which counted among its founding members Nathaniel Rochester himself, the present structure from 1824 is the oldest public building still in use in the City of Rochester. Here we can appreciate Skinner's desire for maximum dynamic range and coloristic spectrum on a relatively small scale in his Op. 517 (III/32) from 1925.

Dinner this evening is at the Woodcliff, where we once again have the opportunity to enjoy vistas of the rolling hills of western New York. We return to East Avenue for our evening recital in the handsome St. Paul's Episcopal Church with its famous 1927 Skinner Organ Company, Op. 655 (IV/68), meticulously restored by the A. Thompson-Allen Company in



**Downtown United  
Presbyterian Church ~ Rochester**  
C.B. Fisk, Inc., Op. 83 (1983)

2012. It is in this instrument that we hear Skinner's first Flauto Mirabilis and a rare Musette, not to mention its impressive, stentorian Tutti.

## TUESDAY, JULY 31

**TUESDAY'S ORGAN OFFERINGS** invite us to evaluate sounds conceived on a smaller scale, with an excursion into the countryside to visit several 19th-century instruments in bucolic settings. A forty-minute bus ride due south winds us through vast swaths of land formerly inhabited by the Seneca tribe in the years leading up to the American Revolution. As allies to the defeated British, the Seneca were forced to abandon their land after the war — in the same years that witness the founding of most of the towns we visit today. In Leicester, New York we visit the Leicester Evangelical Presbyterian Church in the 201st year of its founding. The soaring, white spire of the 1832 New

England Colonial style church punctuates the rolling countryside and houses a characteristic 1876 Steere & Turner, Op. 107 (II/17).

A few winding roads away, we arrive in Caledonia, New York — so-called thanks to its Scottish settlers — to visit the elegant First Presbyterian Church dating from 1855 and the second instrument of the day dating from 1876: the E. & G.G. Hook & Hastings Organ, Op. 829 (II/16), originally built for the Andover Theological Seminary in Andover, Massachusetts. The instrument occupied several homes before coming to western New York, but was purchased from and rebuilt by the Andover Organ Company and installed behind a splendid neoclassical 1841 case by William Stevens in 1987.

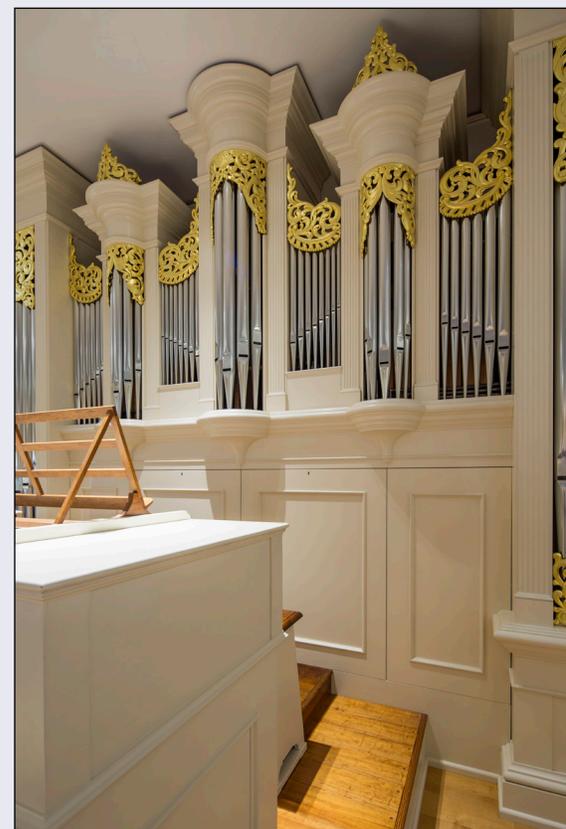
From Caledonia we travel to Le Roy, New York, a town with an unusual claim to fame. It was here that in 1897 Pearle Bixby Wait trademarked a new dessert called Jell-O and sold it to Orator Francis Woodward in 1899. Le Roy is home to the Colonial-Revival Woodward family estate, *Mercy Grove*, which houses an untouched three-manual 1926 Aeolian Co., No. 1599. While this organ awaits a complete restoration, you will be able to hear shades of its former glory and explore the beautiful grounds of *Mercy Grove* while enjoying a leisurely lunch.

From Le Roy, A and B groups will alternate visiting instruments in the charming village of Avon, known historically for its wealth of mineral springs and spas in the 19th century. At St. Agnes Catholic Church we hear the noble simplicity of the 1890 Farrand & Votey Organ Co., Op. 79 (II/9) in a resonant, vaulted interior. At the other end of the quintessentially church-lined town square, we hear the forthright and silvery ensemble of Avon United Methodist Church's 1895 A.B. Felgemaker Co., Op. 606 (II/16).

Dinner this evening is on your own in the Park Avenue neighborhood of Rochester before heading to Downtown United Presbyterian Church for a taste of something altogether different from the bite-sized portions of the morning and afternoon. 1983 C.B. Fisk, Op. 83 (III/56) commands as much attention sonically as it does visually, infused with both French and German tonal influences. It is among the last instruments designed by Charles Fisk.

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1

**OUR WEDNESDAY BEGINS**, quite literally, with considerable fanfare at Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church in the Rochester suburb of Brighton: its signature polished brass 8-foot Trompette-en-Chamade resonators feature prominently in its modern, asymmetrical façade. There we hear the brilliant, transparent sonorities of the 1967 Casavant Frères Ltée, Op. 2924 (III/49) — a little musical caffeine to get us started. Shifting from the *Neo-Baroque* paradigm to the *Historically Inspired*, we continue our morning tour at the First Presbyterian Church in the fashionable suburb of Pittsford, nestled quaintly on the Erie Canal. The present meeting-house-style sanctuary dating from 1863 houses a sweet-toned 2008 Taylor & Boody Organbuilders, Op. 57 (II/27) in its rear gallery. Based on instruments built by the German émigré David Tannenberg, the characterful pipe speech, silvery and well-textured *pleno*, Neidhardt temperament, and “living” wind system remind us just how closely related these early American instruments are to their Central German forebears.



**First Presbyterian Church ~ Pittsford**  
Taylor & Boody Organbuilders, Op. 57 (2008)



**Grace Episcopal Church ~ Lyons  
Henry Erben (1840)**

We depart Pittsford with a brief trip back to the Woodcliff for lunch and the Annual Meeting. The afternoon's activities resume with a journey back to the polychromed interior of Christ Church to hear its second noteworthy instrument: the 1893 E. & G.G. Hook & Hastings, Op. 1573 (III/30), built for St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church in Portland, Maine. It incorporates pipework from the 1862 E. & G.G. Hook, Op. 308 from Boston's Emmanuel Church and was relocated to Rochester by Woodberry & Harris in 1891. David E. Wallace & Company, LLC restored and brought together these two instruments to Rochester in 2012 as an American Romantic foil to the Craighead-Saunders organ in the rear balcony. Enjoy the quintessential Doppelflutes, Clarinets, and limitless *misterioso* effects it offers.

Back on the *East Avenue Organ Walk*, we arrive at the solid, Romanesque-Revival Third Presbyterian Church, constructed in 1892. A 1952 Austin Organs Inc., Op. 2180 (IV/79) occupies the two large chambers in the chancel, while a massive set of 32-foot Bourdon pipes, saved from the 1922 Austin organ of the Eastman Theatre, frames the right transept wall. Following extensive acoustic renovations in recent years, Third Presbyterian Church has established itself as one of the

most sympathetic performance spaces in Rochester.

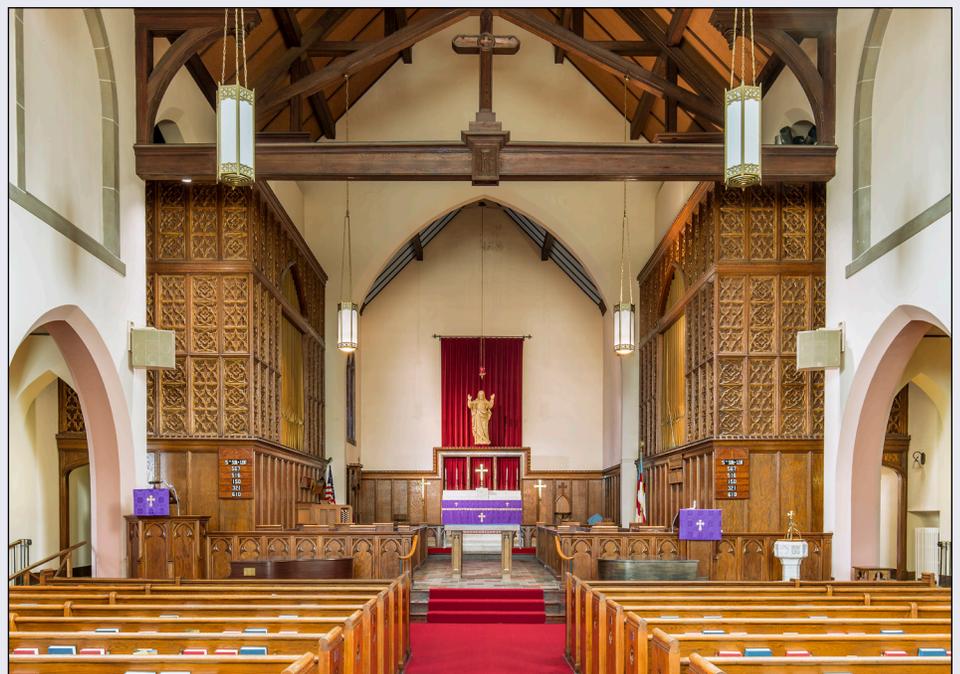
Perhaps by now you will have discovered your favorite Park Avenue dining spots — or at least have a list of those you still wish to try — and tonight is another moment to do just that. Buses will pick you up there to take you across town to the Episcopal Church of the Ascension: a Gothic-Revival structure from 1928, well known now for its peal of ten bells from the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. In 1967 the church acquired the formidable 1928 Skinner Organ Co., Op. 711 (IV/56), formerly located in Rochester Masonic Temple Auditorium (now the Auditorium Theatre). Heard now in a (considerably) more intimate setting, it promises equal parts poetry and punch.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

**THURSDAY OFFERS** our second out-of-town excursion: this time not into the rolling fields of the Seneca, but to the land of forgotten fortunes along the Erie Canal. Founded in 1811, Lyons, New York had been reached by the canal in 1820 and consequently boomed. The H.G. Hotchkiss Essential Oil Company put Lyons on the map in the 1840s, having become the *worldwide* leader in the production of peppermint. 1840 also witnessed the

laying of the cornerstone of Grace Episcopal Church, a striking Tudor Gothic Revival structure built with the aid of a \$2,000 donation from Trinity Wall Street in New York City. Perhaps not too surprising, therefore, was the acquisition of a Henry Erben organ built in 1839–1840 (I/9), later enlarged in 1900 by C.E. Morey (II/14), and again by the Andover Organ Company in 1962 and 1978 (II/17). A local talent, Clarence E. Morey from Utica built his Op. 248 (II/13) in 1908 for St. John's Lutheran Church. The church was the unfortunate victim of arson in the mid-1990s, but the organ survived and benefitted from a full restoration by the Parsons Pipe Organ Builders in 1996. Its penetrating Diapasons are as impressive as its strings stops are energetic in their sizzle. A and B groups will alternate between these two instruments, after which lunch bisects our Lyons odyssey.

The next case study of the day takes the shape of an octopod three-manual 1928 Skinner Organ Company, Op. 691 (III/20) at the First Presbyterian Church. After a nearly catastrophic fire in 1936, the organ was removed, repaired, and reinstalled with a few additions in 1937 by David Marr. A somewhat idiosyncratic design, with a specification somewhere between a church and a residence installation, it impresses with its creamy reeds and atmospheric echo division. In stark



**Church of the Ascension (Episcopal) ~ Rochester  
Skinner Organ Company, Op. 711 (1928)**

contrast to these demure sounds enter the forthright, bright ensembles and characteristic neo-classical sonorities of the 1970 Schlicker Organ Co. (II/32) at First Lutheran Church. The splendid 1885 Romanesque Revival building modeled after churches in Alsace-Lorraine initially served a German-speaking congregation, and continues to curate these colorful sounds with its generous acoustics.

In bidding adieu to Lyons, we return to Rochester for dinner on your own in the Park Avenue neighborhood. We will cross the city to arrive at the Maplewood neighborhood and its 1925 Gothic-Revival Sacred Heart Cathedral. Following an extensive interior renovation in 2005, Paul Fritts & Company Organ Builders installed the Halloran-All Saints Organ, Op. 26 (III/82) in 2008. The exquisite case is modeled after the façade at Hertogenbosch Cathedral, and the tonal design takes inspiration principally from various Renaissance and Baroque traditions, with a few references to the 19th century.

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

**OUR FINAL CONVENTION DAY** traverses three centuries of organ design, but particularly highlights Rochester's collection of "Unit Orchestras" in their various guises — from important Hope-Jones and Wurlitzer church installations, to the thrilling Wurlitzer in the Auditorium Theatre. We are reminded that in the heyday of the silent film, theatre organ was also taught at the Eastman School of Music — a tradition that has been recently reinstated in the last decade! The Rudolf Wurlitzer Organ Company of North Tonawanda sits but an hour to the west of Rochester, and two hours to the south is found Elmira, home of the short-lived Hope-Jones Organ Company (1907–1910).

We begin the day at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church with The Rudolf Wurlitzer Organ Company, Op. 2032 (III/9) from 1929. The instrument frames one of the many distinctive stained-glass windows in the sanctuary and features an elegant, signature "horseshoe" console. Continuing this "Unit Orchestra" narrative, we visit one of the masterpieces by Rochester architect Claude Fayette Bragdon: his 1907 Romanesque-Revival First Universalist Church and its famous Hope-Jones Organ Company, Op. 2, from the same year, rebuilt in 1937 by The Rudolf Wurlitzer Company

as Op. 2215 (II/15). Replete with "pencil strings" and ultra-smooth Tubas and Clarinets, it is an instrument that never fails to astonish with its many poetic sounds and dynamic range. Across Washington Square Park from First Universalist stands the red-brick St. Mary's Catholic Church from 1853, home of the relocated 1896 E. & G.G. Hook & Hastings, Op. 1697 (II/9). Having heard another nine-rank instrument of a strikingly different concept earlier in the day, we adjust our ears once again to lower wind pressures in this warm acoustical space.

We will yet further reduce wind pressures for one of the most unusual stops on our convention itinerary: the Memorial Art Gallery and its anonymous Italian Baroque Organ, c. 1670–1770 (I/14), restored in 2005 by Gerald Woehl as part of the Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative. As the only full-sized Italian Baroque organ in North America, it is among the crown jewels of the Gallery's Fountain Court, framed by the museum's Baroque gallery which includes works by van Dyck, El Greco, and Luca Giordano. With its flexible wind, meantone temperament, and vocal intonation, you will find in sound an aural complement to the vivid chiaroscuro on canvas surrounding you.

Our convention banquet will be hosted right there at the Memorial Art Gallery in the elegant Bausch & Lomb Parlor and M&T Bank Ballroom before coming full circle to the largest of our "Unit Orchestras" and our closing concert: the 1928 Rudolf Wurlitzer Manufacturing Co., Op. 1951 (IV/23), installed by the Rochester Theatre Organ Society in 1967. Originally the Masonic Temple of Rochester and home to some seven pipe organs, enjoy one of the country's great Wurlitzers in what promises to be a spectacular finale to a memorable week!

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

**THOSE WHO ELECT** to enjoy the optional day in the Finger Lakes region have many delights in store. Sleep in before boarding the buses for Auburn, New York for a visit to the magnificent 1890 Carl Barckhoff Organ Company (II/29), restored by the Parsons Pipe Organ Builders in 2017 with the judicious addition of a Pedal Trombone. In the chancel stands additionally an 1872 Garrett House (I/8)



St. Mary's Church ~ Auburn  
Carl Barckhoff [Sr.] (1890)

PHOTO STEVE CHESLER

— indeed an embarrassment of riches. Continue from Auburn to Canandaigua for lunch and a tour of the Parsons Pipe Organ Builders shop in the rolling New York countryside. After a short trip to the historic center of Canandaigua, lined with many remarkable 18th- and 19th-century buildings, you will have the opportunity to hear one of the Parsons' newest instruments, their versatile, warm 2015 Op. 41 (III/40) in the historic 1871 United Church of Canandaigua. As the final organ offering of this 63rd OHS Convention, travel to West Bloomfield to visit the 1875 William J. Davis (II/16) at the West Bloomfield Congregational United Church of Christ, the only known extant organ by the Buffalo builder. Buses will be available either to return to the Woodcliff or continue to the New York Wine and Culinary Center for those who wish to experience the some of the very best of New York agriculture and viticulture. Taste local and seasonal foods, farm-to-table, while sipping on Finger Lakes wines accompanied by stunning views of Lake Canandaigua. Is there any better way to wind down after an intense week of convention activities?