JULY 26–31, 2020 COLUMBUS ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY 65TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

PHOTOGRAPHY LEN LEVASSEUR NARRATIVE JOSEPH MCCABE

JULY 26–31, 2020 COLUMBUS ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



1929 Skinner Organ Co., No. 749, Mimi and Stuart Rose Auditorium, The Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, Ohio. In 2017, the windchests were rebuilt by Hunt-Krewson Pipe Organ Service, Dayton, Ohio, with assistance from Columbia Organ Works, Inc., Columbia, Pennsylvania.

JOIN US IN COLUMBUS!

COLUMBUS, OHIO IS AN EXCELLENT location for the 65th annual convention of the Organ Historical Society. Columbus, the 14th largest city in the USA, is a cosmopolitan center spanning three counties and transcending the boundaries of the settlements established at the nexus of the Scioto and Olentangy Rivers. Pipe organs of the capital city range from new-to-old and represent a broad cross-section. Our convention will trace antique influences along with recent modern contributions of the 21st century.

Matthias Schwab established an organ factory in Cincinnati by 1831. **St. Patrick Catholic Church, Junction City** was rooted in the great flow of Irish emigration to Perry County. German influence likely led to placement of the one-manual **1854 Mathias Schwab** organ at the church. Schwab created instruments second-to-none and equal in craft to his American predecessors. The Saint Patrick organ is currently thought to be the oldest extant playable work by the builder.

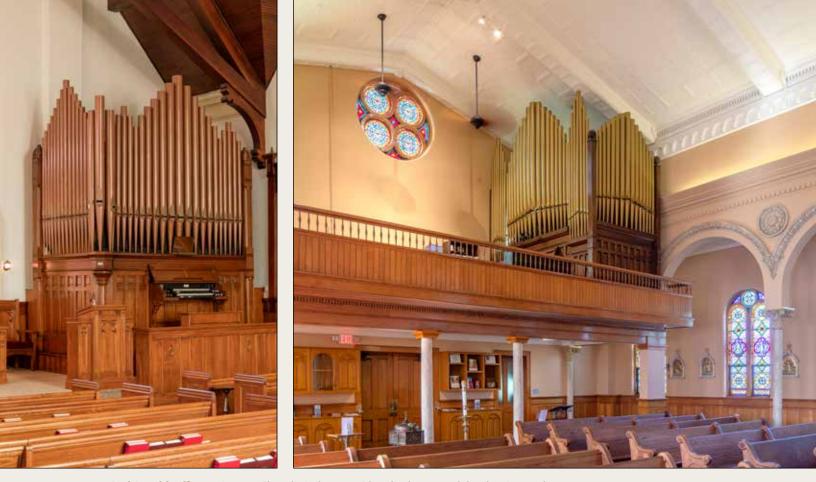
Johann Heinrich Koehnken succeeded the Schwab workshop in 1860. The 1866 Koehnken & Co. Organ Builders instrument at Plum Street Temple, Cincinnati is older, but the ca. 1870 Koehnken and Co. organ at the Seventh-Day Adventist Church (formerly St. John English Lutheran Church), Delaware is of equal importance. The organ was secured in 1901, but the origin of this instrument is unclear. This may be the only extant example of a one-manual instrument typical of those provided to smaller settings following Schwab's departure and

OHS 65TH ANNUAL CONVENTION GUIDE

prior to the 1876 succession as Koehnken & Grimm.

Carl Barckhoff was a successful factory builder of organs. Amidst years of financial difficulties, Barckhoff withdrew as superintendent of the Carl Barckhoff Church Organ Co., Salem, Ohio, establishing a new company in Mendelssohn, Pennsylvania. The two-manual **1895 Carl Barkchoff** at **First Baptist Church, Delaware** is among the first instruments built in the new plant.

In 1897 Barckhoff moved to Latrobe, Pennsylvania to start the Barckhoff Church Organ Company until relocating again in 1900 to Pomeroy, Ohio. The two-manual **1900 and 1913 Barckhoff Church Organ Co.** (rebuilt 2001 Peebles-Herzog, Inc.) organ at **St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Columbus** is representative of



LEFT: 1895 Carl Barckhoff, First Baptist Church, Delaware, Ohio, built in Mendelssohn, Pennsylvania. **RIGHT: 1900 and 1913 Barckhoff Church Organ Co.**, St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church, Columbus, Ohio, built in Pomeroy, Ohio.

both early and late Pomeroy work. A burgeoning congregation lead to a nave addition, with the builder returning in 1913 to facilitate the expansion. A flood of the Ohio River that same year destroyed the factory again, with Barckhoff fleeing to Basic City, Virginia to form the Barckhoff Organ Company.

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Springboro is home to a two-manual **1890 Frank Roosevelt, No. 478**, formerly in the First Presbyterian Church, Franklin. Originally installed in the congregation's ca. 1885 building, the organ was relocated in 1983. The organ exemplifies Roosevelt's approach to a moderate sized organ.

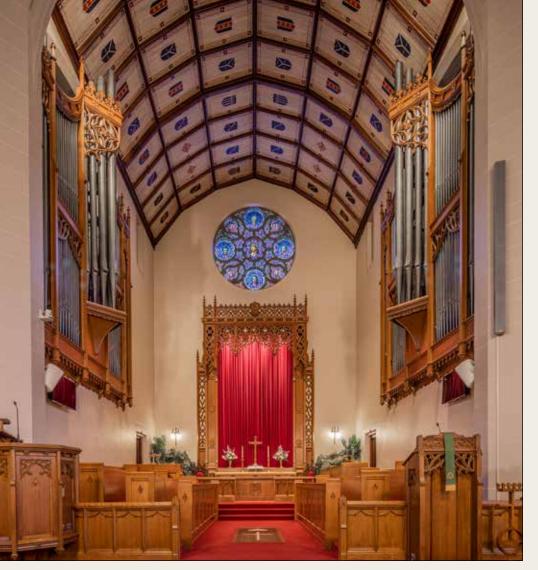
John Hughes Brown is an unsung builder of 19th and early 20th century American organs. The two-manual **1895** John Brown Organ Co. of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Marysville remains today much as it did at its dedication. The organ is strikingly like an organ exhibited at the 1895 Cotton States and International Exhibition. Given few Brown organs came to Ohio, the Marysville installation may be linked to Orlando M. Scott — who in 1868 founded O.M. Scott & Sons (modern day Scotts Miracle-Gro Company).

A comparable factory builder of finecrafted late 19th century organs is found within a legacy of Henry Pilcher's Sons. The Church of The Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Cardington is a new home for this rededicated two-manual 1897 Henry Pilcher's Sons organ. The instrument escaped peril twice, including a 1940 fire and the 2018 demolition of its original home at St. Sebastian Church, Bismarck, Ohio. The organ had been rebuilt in 1988 by John G.P. Leek, Organ Builder, Oberlin, Ohio, and having received favorable input from various consultants, Fr. Thomas Buffer arranged for a marathon salvage of the Pilcher organ. Though electric was disconnected from the property, the organ's hand-pumped wind allowed Buffer and others to hear the musical possibilities offered by an historic organ.

St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church, New Lexington building was completed in 1880, however the two-manual 1908 A.B. Felgemaker Co., Op. 952, was not installed until renovation following a 1902 fire. The church name is in tribute to the Dominican Order that served the parish in its infancy.

Not every factory builder enjoyed the same degree of success with inclusion of the latest technologies, as was the case with organ at Saint Mary of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church, Columbus, Ohio. The large two-manual 1902 Wm. Schuelke Organ Co. is the last work of William Schuelke, as he died at the train station following installation. Built with Schuelke-patented membrane and tubular pneumatic chest design and coupler action, the instrument was mechanically complex and proved not easy to service, as evidenced by a 1941 electrification and further 1974 compromises. In 2000, the Muller Pipe Organ Company, Croton, Ohio embarked on a tonally sensitive rebuilding while providing new chests and wind system.

Some of Ohio's builders considered supplementing sales and grew out of reed organ production, like the Stevens Organ & Piano Co. of Marietta, a largely forgotten builder succeeding Stevens & Klock Organ Co. in 1897. Collin R. Stevens trained with Estey & Co. The handful of sizable Stevens pipe organ commissions built can be attributed to employment of Allan G. Sparling; a Canadian native, who apprenticed in 1891 with Doherty, Clinton, Ontario, Canada; Goderich Organ Co. in 1894; with Compensating Pipe Organ Co.



1938 Votteler-Holtkamp-Sparling, Job 1575 incorporating 1888 G.F. Votteler pipework, Rebuilt 2018 Schantz Organ Co., Op. 2333; St. John United Church of Christ, Dover, Ohio.

of Toronto, Ontario, Canada and Battle Creek, Michigan, and successor firm Lyon & Healy until 1908.

First Hope United Methodist Church, Crooksville houses a two-manual ca. 1911 Stevens Organ & Piano Co. instrument worthy of further documentation. Less than a half-dozen Stevens installations are known, and the Crooskville instrument is possibly the last extant. Sparling-imparted characteristics include use of a specific action design, chest construction and keydesk details.

Abraham J. Tschantz established a reed organ workshop in 1873 in Kidron, Ohio. As reed organ demand exceeded supply and causing the 1875 building of a new Orville, Ohio shop, it is believed Tschantz began building pipe organs. The firm name became A.J. Schantz, Sons & Co. when Edison F. and Oliver A. Schantz joined the firm by 1892.

Dennison, Ohio is a rural town born out of necessity for locomotive refueling, watering, and coal hauling. The Railway Chapel, now formally known as the First Presbyterian Church of Dennison, was completed in 1871 in connection with a request from the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Railroad. The two-manual 1925 A.J. Schantz, Sons & Co., PW97 is a well-preserved example of the firm's tubular and pneumatic work in the first quarter of the 20th century. While not representative of Abraham Tschantz, the organ would be indicative of Edison, Oliver and Victor Abraham Schantz, the later having apprenticed for about eighteen months with the Rudolph Wurlitzer Company in order to expand knowledge of pneumatic actions.

The only remaining Skinner instrument in Columbus is the three-manual **1929 Skinner Organ Company, No. 773,** at **"Old" First Presbyterian Church, Columbus**. While not large, the organ is well-suited for its 1906 surroundings on fashionable Bryden Road. Since 2012, restoration continues under the direction of J. Clark Wilson & Associates Pipe Organs, East Liverpool, Ohio.

Some 60-miles west in Davton along the banks of the Miami and Mad Rivers, we find two different instruments by Skinner. The Schiewetz Auditorium, Dayton Masonic Center features the four-manual 1926 Skinner Organ Co., No. 624, while the adjoining Mimi and Stuart Rose Auditorium, The Dayton Art Institute is home to the two-manual 1929 Skinner Organ Co., No. 749. The Grecian Ionic masonic complex was finished in 1928 and is the most active complex of its type left in Ohio. Featuring a multitude of gathering rooms in a variety of architectural themes, the lodges have six individual two-manual 1927 Henry Pilcher's Sons, (Opera 1348 through 1353), ranging from 16 to 37 stops in size. In the 1,800-seat auditorium, fifty-nine ranks of pipes were placed to the side and front of the room by the Skinner Organ Company. The organ restoration by Hunt-Krewson Pipe Organ Service, Dayton, Ohio is largely complete save for the console.

The Art Institute was completed in 1930 and designed after 16th century Italian Renaissance architecture. The Art Institute's Skinner at cursory glance could be easily dismissed as a duplex organ, but its design is typical for an automatic player mechanism and aligns with Skinner's conceptual dispositions for theatre organs.

The three-manual **1972 Rudolf von Beckerath Orgelbau GMBH** at **First Congregational Church, Columbus** is an exemplar of German precision, where form follows function and functionality takes precedence over frill. A common criticism of the Organ Reform Movement was that its principles were taken to extremes that became more dogmatic than musical, though the Beckerath organ is equally suited to render music of several genres.

Forward another quarter-century, we find a stylistically different three-manual **2003 Beckerath Orgelbau**, now relocated to **St. Turibius Chapel, the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus**. The Josephinum is a pontifical seminary, the only such located outside of Italy. No significant organ existed here prior to the arrival of the Beckerath, an instrument relocated in 2008 by the Bedient Pipe Organ Company and tonally finished in 2019 by Beckerath Orgelbau.



BELOW: One-manual **1974 John Brombaugh & Co., Op. 23a**, Assembly Room, St. John United Church of Christ, Germantown, Ohio. The organ was built in nearby Middletown and given in honor of Katherine Brombaugh. Builders Michael Bigelow, John Boody, Anderson Dupree, Charles Ruggles, Bruce Shull, and George Taylor all worked in the shop at time of the instrument's construction.



ABOVE: Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio, the home of **1928 Robert Morton Organ Co., Op. 2366**. **BELOW: 2003 Beckerath Orgelbau**, originally built for Stephen J. Ketterer Residence, Washington, Connecticut, relocated in 2008 by the Bedient Pipe Organ Company to St. Turibius Chapel, Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio.



Comparison awaits in Delaware. The four-manual 1980 Orgelbau Klais Bonn, Op. 1557, subsequently rebuilt 2013 as Op. 1557-B, at Ohio Wesleyan University, Gray Chapel, University Hall, Delaware, is the largest mechanical action organ in the country built by this workshop and completed under direction of Hans Gerd Klais, third generation organbuilder. The organ is outfitted with classic French-inspired mounted Cornets, color reeds including a Cromorne and Vox Humana, French-style Schwellwerk chorus reeds, and the "Blanchard Memorial Bombarde Division," the latter a pair of commanding 16-8' Hooded Trumpets mounted unenclosed along the sides of the organ structure.

Philipp Caspar Andreas Klais, fourth generation builder, was invited in 2003 by Asbury United Methodist Church, Delaware to submit a proposal for a new instrument, a three-manual 2007 Orgelbau Klais Bonn. He desired to devise a convincing concept representative of a new generation: a sculptural case in conjunction with artist Ebb Haycock independent of its Victorian surroundings, warm tonal colors, soft growing foundation, a two-manual solution aimed to add differentiation by dividing the variety of stops over three manuals, and a complex tracker mechanism enabling the console to be optimally placed.

Additional new notable mechanical action organs continue to grace the Ohio landscape. The most recent is the two-manual **2018 C.B. Fisk Inc., Op. 148** in **Centennial Chapel, Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral, Cincinnati**. The intimate neo-Gothic chapel, erected in 1917, has a lofty coffered ceiling, masonry floor and walls, and a resonant, clear acoustic ideal for organ performance.

The main nave of Christ Church Cathedral was built in 1957. Poised for a new chapter in history is the anticipated completion of the new nave organ — a three manual Richards, Fowkes & Co., Op. 24. Commissioned in 2013 and under construction at time of publication, it will be the largest organ built by the firm to date. The proposed disposition is like Village Presbyterian Church, Prairie Village, Kansas (Op. 22), though the case is massed to proportions of Art Deco skyscrapers, a play on emphasizing lightness and verticality. The organ is not a historic copy of



2007 Orgelbau Klais Bonn, Asbury United Methodist Church, Delaware, Ohio. The sculptural pipeshades were executed by the builder in conjunction with artist Ebb Haycock.

any one style — reported to have three celestes, varieties of flutes throughout, a massive enclosed Positive division, and 32' Posaune and Subbaß.

With the death of Henry Holtkamp in 1931, Walter Holtkamp, Sr. assumed making key decisions of the Votteler-Holtkamp-Sparling shop. Instead of following fashion, he created new paths through reversing mechanical approaches while developing and pioneering tonal approach.. The three-manual 1938 Votteler-Holtkamp-Sparling, Job 1575 (renovated 2018 Schantz Organ Co., Op. 2333) at Saint John United Church of Christ, **Dover** is such an organ. The Dover organ shares much in common with an almost simultaneously completed organ at St. James Anglican Catholic, Cleveland, Ohio (three-manual 1936-1938 Votteler-Holtkamp-Sparling, Job 1596 & 1602) of similar specification complexity.

The three-manual 1866 Koehnken & Co. Organ Builders at Isaac M. Wise, Plum Street Temple, Cincinnati has fared well for a variety of reasons including continued maintenance by the original builder's employees, the 1902 construction of a new primary facility to address changing demographics without disposal of the old, and that by the time major work was required to the organ, it had significance and recognition. The organ was pristinely restored in 2004-2005 as Noack Organ Co., Op. 147 and continues to serve the congregation B'nai Yeshurun. It is not just the largest extant work of the builder, it is amongst the oldest and most historic pipe organs still in use in an American synagogue.



1854 Mathias Schwab, Saint Patrick Roman Catholic Church, Junction City, Ohio

The exotic Thomas W. Lamb-designed Ohio Theatre, Columbus and its four-manual 1928 Robert Morton Organ Co., Op. 2366 barely escaped a date with the wrecker's ball in 1969. The Robert Morton Organ Co. was not just different in the fact that it was a stocked-owned company, accountable to its investors searching for a profitable commodity over a statement of artistic merit, it had no single organ-type pioneer steering its vision after the departure of Robert Pier Eliot. The Ohio Morton organ is one of four identical large-scale four-manual pipe organs built for Loew's theaters located in Kansas City, Missouri, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Providence, Rhode Island, yet it is the only one still in its original home.

The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus founded in 1852 by Presbyterian abolitionists. The current Neo-Gothic edifice was built in 1931 to the designs of John Russell Pope and Howard Dwight Smith. The four-manual 1931 W.W. Kimball Co. (1931), K.P.O. 7066, was designed by Glenn Grabill and Robert Pier Eliot. Kimball craftsmanship is evident throughout: exquisitely made pipes, exceptional voicing, battleship construction techniques, and when combined with new mechanical designs introduced in 1918, gave Kimball increasing desirability.

The Kimball at First Congregational Church must have made quite a favorable



1897 Henry Pilcher's Sons, rebuilt in 1988 by John G.P. Leek, Organ Builder, Oberlin, Ohio and relocated in 2018 from Saint Sebastian Church, Bismarck, Ohio to Church of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Cardington, Ohio.

impression arriving just short of a decade after the installation of the 1922 Skinner Organ Co., Op. 380 at **Saint Joseph Cathedral, Columbus**. Several accounts point toward an opinion of it not having been a particularly good organ. The Skinner would be replaced regardless, as when it was removed for rebuilding in 1977, it was damaged during a shop fire resulting in the commissioning of Wicks Pipe Organ Co., Op. 5667.

An exceptional pipe organ was yet in store for the Columbus Cathedral. The creation of the three-manual **2006 Paul Fritts & Company, Op. 25**, flourished as artistic liberty allowed Fritts to build his largest and undoubtedly most successful organ to that date. Highly influenced by Northern European organ building and the work of Arp Schnitger, the organ is not "pure" — but rather purposefully eclectic and flexible. The organ is housed in a case with hand-burnished tin pipes inspired by the 1735–1738 Christian Müller organ of the St. Bavokerk in Haarlem, Amsterdam, with elaborate carved basswood pipe shades designed by Jude Fritts.

The OHS invites you to join us in our study of the pipe organs in the Buckeye State, where organ culture is rooted in significant vintage, modern and recent historically interesting instruments. Plan to visit early or stay late, as our hotel is next to the Historic North Market, adjacent to the "Short North" entertainment district with over sixty bars and restaurants of all types and price points. Please visit our webpage for more information about the schedule, registration and accommodations (Columbus Hilton Downtown). We look forward to greeting you in Columbus!



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Martin-MacNevin Memorial Organ, FIrst Congregational Church ~ Columbus W.W. Kimball Co. (1931) K.P.O. 7066

REBUILT BY Peebles-Herzog, Inc. (2004)

January 2020

December 2019							Fe	bru	ary	20	20		
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29	30	31					23	24	25	26	27	28	29

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



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St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church ~ Columbus Wm. Schuelke Organ Co. (1902)

REBUILT BY Muller Pipe Organ Company (2000)

February 2020

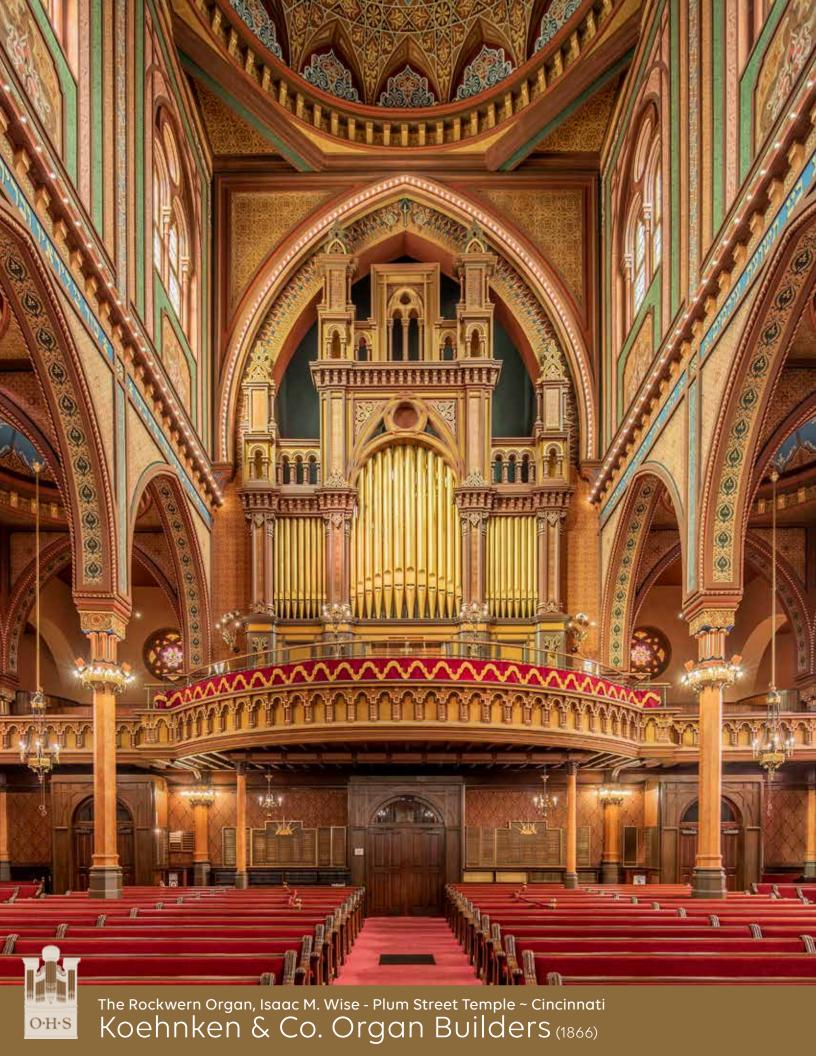
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15
16	17 Presidents' Day	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Ash Wednesday	27	28 E. Power Biggs Scholarship Deadline	29

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RESTORED BY Noack Organ Co., Inc. (2005)

March 2020

 Performance Perform

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Daylight Saving Time Begins	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



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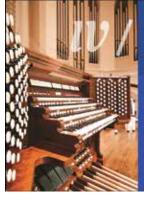
Seventh-Day Adventist Church (formerly St. John English Lutheran Church) ~ Delaware Koehnken and Co. $(\mbox{ca.\,1870})$

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April 2020

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	31 SATURDAY
			1 April Fool's Day	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday	6	7	8 Passover Begins	9	10 Good Friday	11
12 Easter	13	14	15	16 Passover Ends	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



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Schiewetz Auditorium, Dayton Masonic Center ~ Dayton Skinner Organ Company (1926) No. 624

ONGOING RESTORATION BY Hunt-Krewson Pipe Organ Service

May 2020

	April 2020							Jun	e 2	020)		
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26	27	28	29	30			28	29	30				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Pentecost 31	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30

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June 2020

May 2020 July 2020 TWTF S M T wт 1 2 4 8 9 5 6 11 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 12 13 14 15 17 18 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 26 27 28

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14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Father's Day	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



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First Congregational United Church of Christ ~ Marysville John Brown Organ Co. (1895)

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July 2020

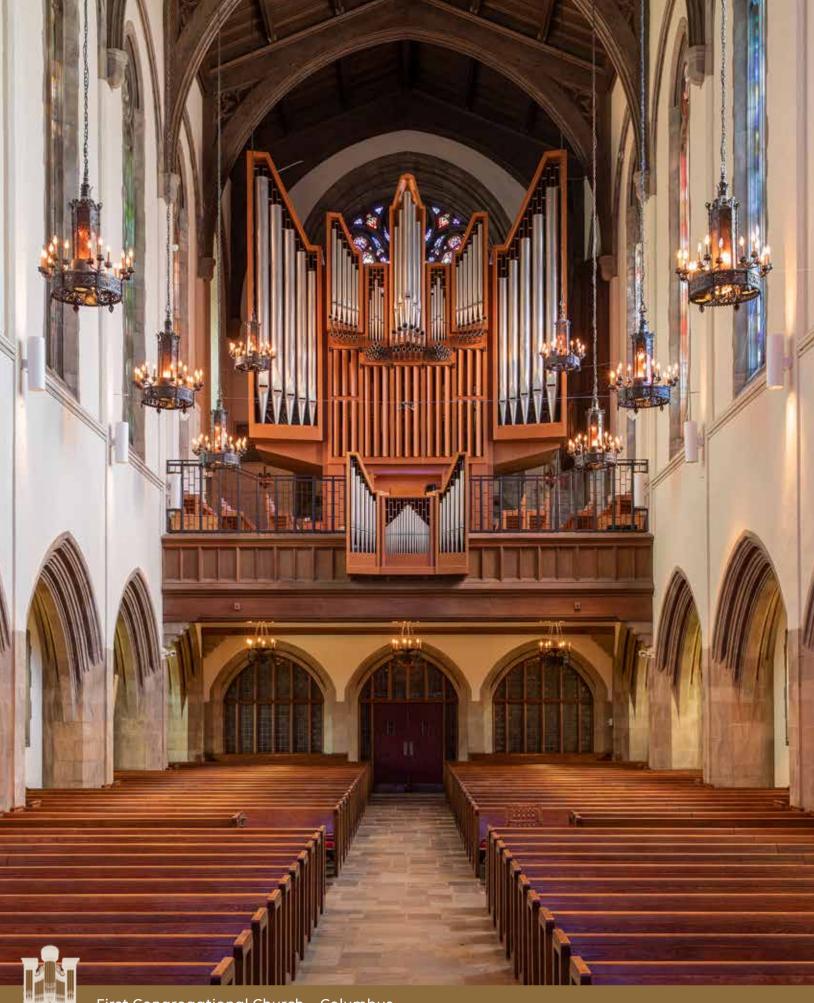
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 First Congregational Church ~ Columbus

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 Rudolf von Beckerath Orgelbau GMBH (1972)

August 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29



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"≣≑iiin O·H·S Railway Chapel (First Presbyterian Church of Dennison) ~ Dennison A.J. Schantz, Sons & Co. (1925) PW97

September 2020

August 2020 October 2020 w MTWTF s 3 5 6 10 13 14 15 16 17 11 12 13 17 18 19 20 21 22 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 30 31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11 Patriot Day	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Rosh Hashanah Begins	19
20 Rosh Hashanah Ends	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



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Centennial Chapel, Christ Church Cathedral ~ Cincinnati C.B. Fisk, Inc. (2018) Op. 148

O·H·S

October 2020

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Columbus Day	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Yom Kippur Begins	28 Yom Kippur Ends	29	30	31 Halloween



2020.ORGANHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY





ONGOING RESTORATION BY JC Wilson & Assoc. Pipe Organs

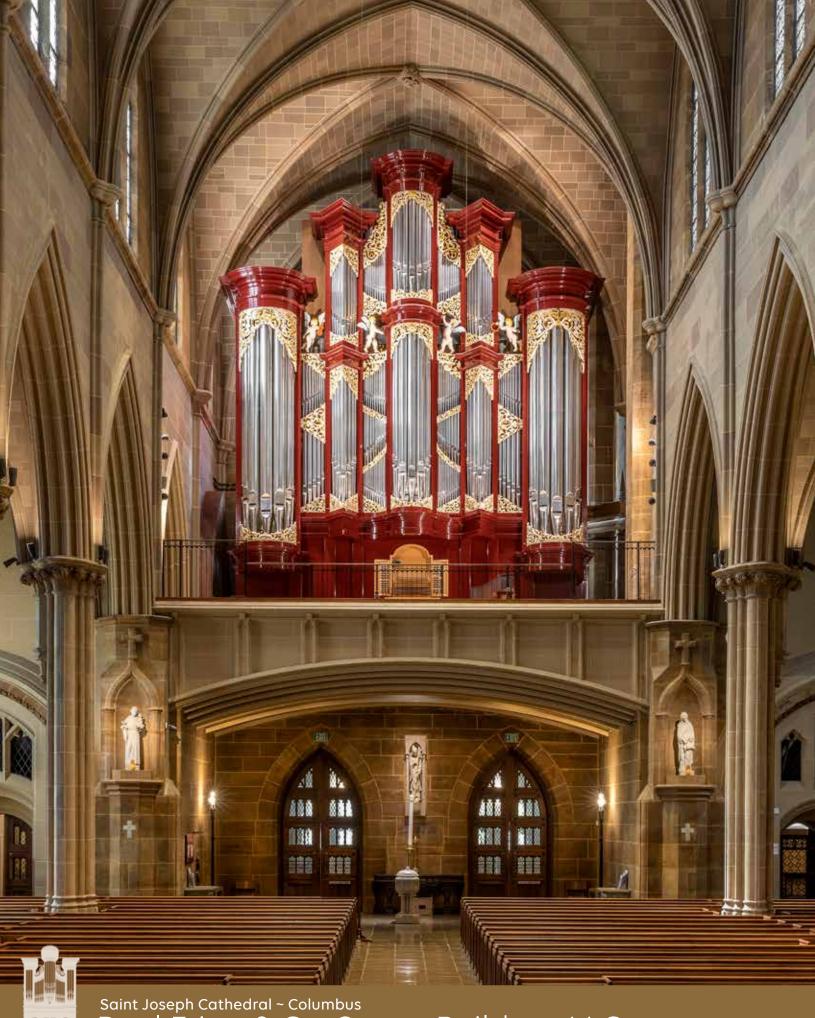
November 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Daylight Saving Time Ends	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 Advent Begins	30					



ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Paul Fritts & Co. Organ Builders, LLC (2006) Op. 25

O·H·S

December 2020

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Hanukkah Begins	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Hanukkah Ends	19
20	21	22	23	24 Advent Ends	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		







Calendar Credits

Photography and Calendar Design ~ Len Levasseur

Narrative ~ Joseph McCabe, CHAIR, OHS 2020 Convention

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2020 CONVENTION CALENDAR © ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COVER PHOTO: Saint Joseph Cathedral ~ Columbus Paul Fritts & Co. Organ Builders, LLC (2006) Op. 25

The OHS invites you to join us in Obio for our study of pipe organs in the Buckeye State, where organ culture is rooted in significant vintage, modern and recent historically interesting instruments. Please visit our webpage for more information, about the schedule, registration and accommodations.

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