

The 1912 Casavant Frères Pipe Organ, Op. 489  
St. Anthony of Padua,  
New Bedford, Massachusetts

**A Detailed Report for the Organ Historical Society**

Prepared by Daniel Lemieux, Organ Restorer, March 2005

Lemieux and Associates Pipe Organ Company, Ltd. 1-866-759-7807

**Grand Orgue** (4" of wind pressure)

Monte 16 (four pipe extension)

65 Pipes, 20 Scroll Tuned Zinc Façade, 45 Slide Tuned Common Metal, Marked 'M 16 GR'

Principal 8

61 Pipes, 12 Scroll Tuned Zinc Façade, 5 Slide Tuned Zinc, 44 Slide Tuned Common Metal, Marked 'PR E 8 GR' –This rank was originally called Principal Etroit 8 '2<sup>nd</sup> Principal on GrandOrgue')

Flute 8 (four pipe extension) (original *Flûte Double* stored in organ)

65 Pipes, 8 Scroll Tuned Zinc Façade, 5 Slide Tuned Zinc, 52 Slide Tuned Common Metal, Marked M 8 GR –This rank was originally the Montre 8. Stop Knob face plate not original (1927?).

Salicional 8

65 Pipes, 12 Scroll Tuned Zinc Façade, 49 Slide Tuned Common Metal, Marked 'DUL 8 POS' – This rank was originally the Dulciane 8 in the Positif

Prestant 4

61 Pipes, 5 Slide Tuned Zinc, 56 Slide Tuned Common Metal, Marked 'PR 4 GR', Signed 'Authur Chagnon'

Flûte Harmonique 4 (This is not a Harmonic Flute)

61 Pipes, 5 Stopped Wood, 44 Flap Tuned Open Wood, 12 Open Metal Trebles, Marked 'Mélodie 8' –This was originally in the Positif at 8'

Nazard 2 2/3

61 Slide Tuned Common Metal Pipes, Marked 'F.H. 4 GR' This rank is the 'cut down' original Harmonic Flute. Stop Knob face plate not original.

Doublette 2

61 Slide Tuned Common Metal Pipes, Marked 'MX 1 GR' on bottom Octave (Probably 'cut down' from 2 2/3' to 2' some evidence of former scrolls, rest of rank Marked '15 GR'

Mixture 5 Rgs (based on 2' –currently four ranks- 3<sup>rd</sup> rank became *Positif Larigot*)

244 Slide Tuned Common Metal Pipes, Marked 'MX 2 GR, MX 2 GR, MX 4 GR, MX 5 GR' – Originally based on 2 2/3'

Trompette 8

61 Pipes, 24 Spotted Metal Bell on Zinc Bottoms, 30 Spotted Metal Resonators, 7 Flue Trebles, Marked 'TR 8 GR' F#1 Marked 'TAGNE LIEGE VIEI(??)...☼☼☼ 12 T.-Zinc Marked with Stamp of Belgium Foundry

Clarion 4

61 Pipes, 12 Spotted Metal Bell on Zinc Bottom, 30 Spotted Metal Resonators, 19 Flue Trebles, Marked 'P 8 GR' –Originally the Posaune 8', bottom octave is stored in organ, scale very similar to Trompette. Stop Knob face plate not original. I believe this change was made during tonal finishing or very early after construction, or possibly during 1927 tonal changes. Original contract lists Clarion 4 in type, which is scratched out and Posaune 8 hand written in.

Grand Orgue left chest is a 65 note chest.

Only the Montre 16 and Flute 8 still have their extension pipes. Salicional, Flûte Harmonique, Prestant, Clarion, 4 pipe extensions were removed.

Original Spec. for Grand Orgue:

Montre 16	Doublette 2
Montre 8	Mixture 5 Rgs.
Principal Etroit 8	Trompette 8
Salicional 8	Posaune 8
Flute Double 8	(in Contract Clarion 4
Prestant 4	listed in type, then
Flute Harmonique4	scratched out)

## **Récit (6" of wind pressure)**

### **Bourdon 16**

61 Stopped Wooden Pipes, Marked 'Bourdon 16'

### **Principal 8**

61 Pipes, 17 Slide Tuned Zinc, 44 Slide Tuned Common Metal (formerly Scroll Tuned), Marked 'PL 8 POS' – Signed Omer J. Bernier Oct. 2 1927 in ink. Another pipe stamp labeled A.

BERNIER (Son Changes Father's Work?? I believe most of the pipe shifts were probably done in 1927). This rank was originally the Principal in the Positif

### **Clarabelle 8**

61 Pipes, 12 Stopped Wood, 49 Open Wood, Marked 'CLARABELLE 8'

### **Bourdon 8**

61 Pipes, 49 Stopped Wood, 12 Flue Trebles, Marked 'BOURDON 8 RECIT'

### **Viole de Gambe 8**

61 Pipes, 12 Scroll Tuned Zinc, 49 Slotted with Slide Tuned Spotted Metal (Formerly Scroll Tuned), Roller to B3, Marked 'GA 8 REC'

### **Voix Céleste 8 (49 notes - Tenor C)**

49 Spotted Metal Slide Tuned Pipes (Formerly Scroll Tuned), Roller to C3, Marked 'CEL 8 REC' Signed E. Chicoyne 1112

### **Fugara 4**

61 Slide Tuned Common Metal Pipes, Marked 'FUG 4 REC', Signed 'Chagnon'

### **Flûte Octaviane 4**

61 Pipes, 5 Slide Tuned Zinc, 56 Slide Tuned Common Metal (formerly Scroll Tuned), 37 Harmonic pipes Marked 'F.H. 4 GR' Originally Flute Harmonique in Grand Orgue ?? This rank and the current Grand Orgue Nazard are both labeled 'F.H. 4 GR'. One of these ranks (probably the Grand Orgue rank, is not original to organ. Both stamp marking look similar, so I believe that both ranks originated from the Casavant factory from roughly the same period

### **Flautino 2**

61 Slide Tuned Common Metal Pipes, 37 Double length Harmonic C2-C5, Marked 'F REC'

### **Cornet 5 Rgs (8' and 4' removed and now in Positif -currently III ranks –2 2/3', 2', 1 3/5')**

183 Slide Tuned Common Metal, Marked 'C 3 REC, C 4 REC, C 5 REC' Signed 'Adrian Bisette'

### **Basson 16**

61 Pipes, 35 Spotted Metal Bells on Zinc Bottoms, 26 Spotted Metal Resonators, 7 Flue Trebles, Marked 'B 16'

### **Trompette 8**

61 Pipes, 24 Spotted Metal Bells on Zinc Bottoms, 30 Spotted Metal Resonators, 7 Flue Trebles, Marked 'TR 8 REC'

### **Hautbois 8**

61 Pipes, 24 Spotted Metal Bells on Zinc Bottoms, 30 Spotted Metal Resonators, 7 Flue Trebles, Marked with pitch only

### **Voix Humaine 8**

61 pipes, 54 Common Metal Capped with half open flap, 7 Metal Trebles, Marked with pitch only

### **Trémolo**

Sostenuto (mechanical device that holds notes)

Original Specification for this Division is the same.

## **Positif (4" of Wind pressure)**

### **Principal 8**

61 Pipes, 12 Scroll Tuned Zinc, 49 Slide Tuned Common Metal (formerly scroll tuned), Marked 'SAL 8 GR' –Originally the Grand Orgue Salicional

### **Bourdon 8 (Stop Knob not original)**

61 Pipes, 12 Stopped Woods, 36 Canistered Quintadenas, 13 Open Metal with Wood Stoppers, 1 - 12 Marked 'Melodie 8' and 13-61 Marked 'C 1' –Originally the first rank (8') of the Récit Cornet

### **Violina 4**

61 Slide Tuned Common Metal Pipes, Marked 'C 2' –Originally the second rank (4') of the Récit Cornet

### **Nazard 2 2/3 (Stop Knob not original)**

61 Slide Tuned Common Metal Pipes, Marked 'VL 4 POS' –Originally the Violina 4 of the Positif

### **Piccolo 2**

61 Slide Tuned Common Metal Pipes, Marked 'PIC POS' in slightly thinner stamping. Signed Adrien Bissonnette

### **Larigot 1 1/3 (Stop Knob not original)**

61 Slide Tuned Common Metal Pipes, Marked 'MX 3 GR' –Originally the third rank of the Grand Orgue Mixture

### **Clarinet 8**

61 Pipes, 54 Cylindrical Slide Tuned Common Metal Resonators, 7 Flue Treble, Marked with Pitch Only

### **Sostenuto**

Original 1912 Specification for the Positif:

Principal 8  
Mélodie 8  
Dulciane 8  
Flûte Douce 4  
Violina 4  
Piccolo 2  
Clarinette 8

## **Solo (11" of wind pressure)**

### **Stentorphone 8**

65 Pipes, 17 Scroll Tuned Zinc, 48 Slide Tuned Common Metal, Marked 'S 8 SO', Leather in Mouths removed, upper lip skived

### **Grosse Flûte 8**

61 Pipes, 12 Stopped Wood, 49 Open Wood, Marked 'Gros FLUTE 8', Missing extension pipes.

### **Violoncelle 8**

65 Pipes, 12 Scroll Tuned Zinc, 53 Slide Tuned Spotted Metal, Marked 'VL 8 SO', Rollers up to G4

### **Viole d'Orchestre 8**

65 Spotted Metal Pipes, Slotted with Slide Tuners, Marked with pitch only, Rollers to C6

### **Flûte Traverse 4**

65 Spotted Metal Pipes, Slotted with Slide Tuners, Marked 'F.T. 4 SO', Harmonic Length at C3

### **Piccolo 2**

61 Slide Tuned Common Metal Pipes, Marked 'PIC SO', Harmonic Length at C2

### **Tuba Mirabilis 8**

65 Pipes, 41 Spotted Metal Bells on Zinc Bottoms, 17 Spotted Metal Resonators, 7 Flue Trebles, Marked 'T 8 SO', Harmonic length at F#3

### **Cor Anglais 8**

65 Pipes, 54 Spotted Metal Resonators, 11 Flue Trebles, Marked with pitch only, Harmonic Length at E2 and Double Harmonic at F#4

### **Trémolo**

### **Sostenuto**

Except for the leather removed from the mouths of the Stentorphone, it appears no other changes were made in the Solo.

Solo was inoperable from 1954-2004.

## **Pédale (30 note pedalboard)**

Flûte 32 (*basse acoustique* resultant –combination of Flute 16 and Bourdon 16 at the 5<sup>th</sup>)

### **Flûte 16**

54 Pipes in the entire unit, 12 Open Wood, 17 Scroll Tuned Zinc, 25 Slide Tuned Common Metal, Bottom Octave Marked 'FLUTE 16', 8' Pitch Up Marked 'PI 8 REC', signed A. Bernier –This was originally the Récit 8' Principal. The original wooden pipes are stored in back of the organ chamber.

### **Violon 16**

42 Side Tuned Zinc Pipes in the entire unit, Evidence of Original Scroll Tuning, Marked 'VL 16', Signed A. Bernier

### **Bourdon 16**

42 Stopped Wood Pipes in the entire unit, Marked No. 2 Bou. 16' or 'No.2 BOURDON 16'

### **Gross Flûte 8 (extension of Flûte 16)**

### **Violoncelle 8 (extension of Violon 16)**

**Bourdon 8 (extension of Bourdon 16) –Stop knob face plate brand new. Original old Knob was lost when it fell out and was lost over the balcony.)**

### **Flûte 4 (extension of Gross Flûte 8 )**

### **Bombarde 16**

42 Spotted Metal Bells on Zinc Bottoms (I believe the top half of the top octave were Spotted without Zinc), Marked with pitch only

### **Trompette 8 (Extension of Bombarde 16)**

### **Bourdon 16 Choeur (from division located in chancel)**

Original Specification for the Pédale Division is the same, except the Bourdon 16 extension was originally going to be called Gedeckt 8

## Accouplements (couplers)

1. Grand Orgue a la Pédale
2. Récit à la Pédale
3. Positif à la Pédale
4. Solo à la Pédale
5. Chœur à la Pédale
6. Récit à la Pédale Aiguë
7. Solo à la Pédale Aiguë
  
8. Récit au Grand Orgue Grave
9. Récit au Grand Orgue
10. Récit au Grand Orgue Aiguë
11. Positif au Grand Orgue
12. Solo au Grand Orgue Grave
13. Solo au Grand Orgue
14. Solo au Grand Orgue Aiguë
15. Chœur au Grand Orgue
16. Octave au Grave Grand Orgue G
17. Octave Aiguë Grand Orgue A
  
18. Solo au Récit Grave
19. Solo au Récit
20. Solo au Récit Aiguë
21. Octave Grave Récit
22. Octave Aiguë Récit
  
23. Récit au Positif Grave
24. Récit au Positif
25. Récit au Postif Aiguë
26. Octave Grave Positif
27. Chœur au Positif
  
28. Octave Grave Solo
29. Octave Aiguë Solo
  
- 30 Appel Choeur

**Chœur** (located in the chancel and also playable from a one manual and pedal console in the chancel. It's not settable in the Combination System.)

Montre 8  
Gambe 8  
Salicional 8  
Bourdon 8  
Prestant 4  
Trémolo

## Unusual Qualities

- This organ has a Sostenuito device (currently operates poorly only with the Récit division), which is contained in a box with a glass front. When drawn, this device holds the notes last played on that manual. The purpose of this device is to hold a chord over which the organist can improvise on a different manual.
- Chœur Division (including Bourdon 16 Chœur in the Pédale) and Sostenuitos are not compatible with the combination system. The setting mechanisms don't exist.
- Chœur can only be played from Grand Orgue, Positif, and Pédale.
- This organ has no 'Unison Offs'.
- One of the two Grand Orgue chests is a 65 note chest, but only two ranks still have their 4 pipe extensions (Montre 16 and Flute 8). The Récit and Solo are also 65 note chests and have working four note extensions.
- This organ also has a device that allows a person to tune the organ without a key holder, by using a dial connected to a long wire that locks into junction boards at the chests.

## A brief note about pipework originality

The organ contains all its original pipe work, but it has been moved around considerably. Two sets of pipes are labeled 'F.H. 4 GR' (Flute Harmonique 4 Grand Orgue) which might mean that one set is not original to the instrument. These two ranks are the Flûte Octaviante 4 in the Récit and the Nazard 2 2/3' in the Grand Orgue (which was cut down). I believe, based on the style and labeling, that both of these ranks originated from the Casavant factory. They look old and blend well.

Two original 49 note pipe ranks (complete, minus top octave) that were in the original specification are stored in the organ chamber. These are the Flute Douce 4 from the Positif (a narrow open wooden rank, marked 'No. 2 DoL FLUTE 4'), and the Flûte Double 8 from the Grand Orgue (a good sized Döppelflute marked 'No. 1 FLÛTE DOUBLE 8'). Two ranks of the Récit Cornet that are now used in the Positif, account for the loss of these two original ranks.

The current Flute 8 on the Grand Orgue is Labeled 'M 8 GR' and was originally the Montre (large Principal on the Grand Orgue). The current 8' Principal is really the smaller 8' Principal, originally called Principal Etroit 8. The Récit Principal 8 was originally the Positif Principal 8, and the Positif Principal 8 was originally the Grand Orgue Salicional 8. The current Grand Orgue Salicional 8 was originally the Positif Dulciane 8. I suspect this 'scaling down' was done in 1927 by Omer J. Bernier. The Récit Principal 8 is signed and dated (Oct. 2, 1927) by this fellow. Many other ranks including that 8' Principal are stamp labeled A. Bernier (original voicer, possibly father, or other family relation of Omer? Was Omer Bernier a Casavant employee?).

It is fascinating to note that the 1927 tonal changes represent a move towards the 'American Classic' sound. After all, the G. Donald Harrison (Aeolian-Skinner) masterpiece found at Church of the Advent in Boston dates from 1934, a mere seven years after the 1927 tonal changes at St. Anthony's, representing a move towards this direction in both American and Canadian organbuilding. By as early as the late twenties it seems that two different trends were forming in organ building; a move towards post-romantic orchestral instruments and a move towards clarity (Or as I like to put it, the birth of 'Tubby vs. Screechy').

The mutations and flute changes in the Positif and the Grand Orgue Nazard (cut down from the Flute Harmonique) were done at the request of Mr. Michael Labens (organist 1954-1999), soon after his arrival, by Mr. Ray Whalen, organ technician.

## **Combination System**

5 Grand Orgue  
Divisional Pistons  
(sets Pédale as well)

5 Récit  
Divisional Pistons

3 Positif  
Divisionals Pistons

3 Solo  
Divisional Pistons

3 Pédale  
Divisional Pistons

5 General Toe Studs

### **Toe Stud and Manual Piston Reversibles**

Grand Orgue / Pédale  
Récit / Pédale  
Positif / Pédal  
Solo / Pédale

### **Expression Pedals**

Récit  
Positif / Solo  
Chœur (currently  
inoperable)