



The Evans & Barr organ in St Enoch's Church, Belfast

Northern Whig, Friday 26 October 1923, page 8

REMEMBRANCE IN MUSIC.

ST. ENOCH'S TRIBUTE TO WAR HEROES.

Magnificent Organ as Memorial.

The installation of an organ to perpetuate the memory of the members of the congregation who took part in the great war at St. Enoch's Presbyterian Church takes place this evening at 7.30. It is claimed that this is the largest organ in Ireland, weighing over nine tons, with 2,096 pipes and reeds, and over two miles of pneumatic tubing. The action is the last word in tubular pneumatic, and many exceptional features are embodied in the mechanism to enable the player to control its great and varied powers. Both from tonal and mechanical points of view it is claimed that it is one of the finest organs in Belfast. Messrs. Evans & Barr, Limited, have carried out the work, making the pipes and mechanism complete at the City Organ Works, Coolbeg Street, Donegall Road, Belfast.

There are three manuals with 37 speaking stops, 12 couplers, 2 tremulants, and 25 accessories. The wind pressures range from 3½ to 8 inches, coming from six wind reservoirs, supplied by [a] powerful blowing electrically-driven fan and booster which act silently and instantly. There are 1,646 pipes and 456 reeds. The largest pipe is 19ft. 6in. long, and the smallest three-eighths of an inch.

The case has been designed by Mr. G.W.C. Porte, architect, and made by Messrs. Evans & Barr in their church furniture department. It is very handsome and imposing, of Japanese quartered oak, richly carved and polished to harmonise with St. Enoch's Church interior.

RECITAL THIS EVENING.

Captain C. J. Brennan, Mus.Bac., City and Cathedral Organist, will give a recital this evening. He drew up the generous and varied specification, which is as follows: —

Great — Contra geigen, 16ft.; bourdon, 16ft.; open diapason large, 8ft.; open diapason (small), 8ft.; dulciana, 8ft.; hohl flute (open throughout), 8ft.; octavo, 4ft.; wald flute, 4ft.; twelfth, 2⅓ft.; fifteenth, 2ft.; tromba, 8ft.; octave tromba, 4ft.

Swell — Lieblich bourdon, 16ft.; open diapason, 8ft.; lieblich gedact, 8ft., echo gamba, 8ft.; vox angelica, 8ft.; gemshorn, 4ft.; lieblich flute, 4ft.; piccolo, 2ft.; mixture, 17.19.22; cornepean, 8ft.; oboe, 8ft.; vox humana, 8ft.; tremulant.

Choir — Lieblich gedact, 8ft.; dolce, 8ft.; viola d'orchestre, 8ft.; flauto traverso, 4ft.; flautino, 2ft.; clarionet, 8ft.; tremulant.

Pedal — Harmonic bass, 32ft.; open diapason, 16ft.; violone, 16ft.; sub bass, 16ft.; octave, 8ft.; bass flute, 8ft.; trumpet, 16ft.

Couplers — Great — Reeds sub-oct.; reeds to choir; choir to great; swell to great.
Swell — Octave, sub-oct.
Choir — Oct., sub-oct.; swell to choir.
Pedal — Choir to pedal; great to pedal; swell to pedal.

Accessories — 4 double-acting comp. pistons to great and pedals; 4 comb. acting pistons to great and pedal; 4 double-acting pistons to swell; 4 comb. acting pistons to swell; comb. adjust. pistons to great and swell; 3 fixed pistons to choir; poppet pedals for swell to great, and for great to pedal; balanced crescendo pedals to swell and choir.

Manuals — CC to C.

Pedals — CCC to F.

Wind pressures — Pedal pipes, 4 inch; great pipes, 4 inch; swell, 4 inch; choir, 3½ inch; great and pedal reeds, 7 to 8 inches.

The pitch has been fixed at C equal 522 vibrations per second (A equal 435).

Belfast Telegraph, Monday 29 October 1923, page 10

Organ memorial Services, St Enoch's Church, Belfast

... The Rev. J. B. Woodburn, B.D., was the preacher at 11-30. Captain Brennan, Mus.Bac., F.R.C.O., City and Cathedral Organist, presided at the new war memorial organ, erected by Messrs. Evans & Barr, Ltd. It is a powerful and beautiful instrument. The builders were most fortunate at St. Enoch's in having a suitable chamber for the mechanism, and the space has been finely utilised. The pipes are a rich metal grey, and the case of Japanese oak to harmonise with the church interior fittings. The front pipes are arranged in two large turrets, with 'curtain', and a smaller central turret, as well as flanking 'curtains' (in the architectural sense). The pulpit is in front of the organ case, and the choir is seated in tiers on a lower level in front of the pulpit. The console is placed amid the choir in a good position to control the singers during the service.

Captain Brennan opened with a soft voluntary, a choral prelude founded on the opening Psalm tune, 'Duke Street', treated cleverly and expressively in 'canon' and imitation more or less freely. The organist was subdued in his treatment of the choir accompaniments in Psalms

and hymns. The anthem was 'How lovely are the messengers', from 'St. Paul' (Mendelssohn), tenderly sung and played. The full power of the organ, which is one of the largest church instruments (as distinct from cathedrals) in Ireland, was heard at the close in a concluding voluntary. The tone is imposing and brilliant, the voicing excellent, and the quality quite characteristic and grateful to the ear.

Belfast News-Letter, Monday 03 March 1924, page 11,

[From a report of St Enoch's annual meeting, held the previous Wednesday evening, Rev. John Pollock presiding.]

... Mr. John Curry, treasurer, read the financial statement, from which it appeared that there had been expended a total of £6,620, no less than £3,900 of that sum being raised during the year; that the war memorial organ and tablets are now entirely free of debt; that the church, interior has been re-decorated, the ceiling lights being re-glazed; and that the spire has been repaired. ... Mr. Linton then read a report on the organ by Capt. C. J. Brennan, F.R.C.O., stating that, having fully examined and tested the instrument, he found it an unqualified success, tonally, mechanically, and as an ornament to the building. The whole scheme had been carried out in a first-class manner, and reflected great credit on the builders, Messrs. Evans & Barr. ...

[But, according to the *Northern Whig* (26 Oct. 1923), Capt. Brennan 'drew up the generous and varied specification', so perhaps he was a little biased?!]

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