

DOWNTOWN UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

121 NORTH FITZHUGH STREET

ROCHESTER, NY

C.B. Fisk, Inc. – Gloucester, Massachusetts

Opus 83, 1983

PEDAL ORGAN

16' Prestant
16' Bourdon
32' and 16' Bourdon
8' Octave
4' Superoctave
Mixture IV
16' Trombone
8' Trumpet

GREAT ORGAN - I

16' Prestant
8' Principal
8' Spire Flute
8' Flute Harmonique
4' Octave
4' Flute
Cornet V (C1)
2' Superoctave
Mixture VI-VIII
8' Trumpet
4' Clarion

SWELL ORGAN - III

8' Gambe
8' Voix Celeste
1 1/3' Quinta
8' Cor de Nuit
4' Italian Principal
2' Waldflote
Fourniture IV
16' Basson
8' Trompette
8' Hautbois

Tremulant

Wind Stabilizer
Great to Pedal Reversible
Two pairs of combination
pedals, adjustable at the
console; on and off for each
stop jamb

POSITIV ORGAN - II

8' Prestant
8' Bourdon
4' Octave
4' Baarpijp
2 2/3' Nazard
2 2/3' Sesquialtera II
2' Doublet
Mixture IV-VI
8' Cromorne
8' Trechterregal

COUPLERS

Swell to Positive
Swell to Great
Positive to Great
Swell to Pedal
Positive to Pedal
Great to Pedal

Pairs of italicized stops above signify that the first stop is available with the knob halfway drawn and the second stop is available when the knob is fully drawn.

Manual compass: 56 notes

Pedal compass: 30 notes

Key action: Direct Mechanical

Stop Action: Direct Mechanical

39 Stops

56 Ranks

2,625 Pipes

Wind pressure: 3 1/4"

Two single-fold wedge bellows

THE FISK ORGAN

The main organ in the Downtown Church sanctuary is a three-manual, tracker-action instrument consisting of 39 stops, 56 ranks, and 2,625 pipes built by C.B. Fisk, Inc. of Gloucester, Massachusetts, and installed in 1982. The design and stoplist of the organ are eclectic, making the organ capable of playing music from all eras as well as accompanying choral music and supporting congregational singing. At the time it was built, it was the largest mechanical action organ in western New York State. Some of the larger pipes in this organ were rebuilt from pipework contained in the former Brick Church and First Church organs.

Parts of the church's old pipe organ, a four-manual 1906 Odell rebuilt by M.P. Möller in 1942, remain in the pipe chambers adjacent to the small chapel area behind the Fisk organ. Also wired into the old Möller console is an eight-rank Wurlitzer theater organ installed in 1922. The pipes of this organ, though not currently in working condition, are located in the attic above the sanctuary.

CHARLES FISK AND THE FISK ORGAN COMPANY

Charles Brenton Fisk was born in Washington, D.C. on February 7, 1925. His first exposure to organ music came through singing in the choir of Christ Church under the direction of E. Power Biggs. His formal education was in physics! His ability in electronics led to his being selected to work on the Manhattan Project during World War II. After the war, Fisk attended Harvard University, studying physics, and received a degree. He then completed graduate work at Stanford University in physics and music, where he studied organ with Herbert Nanney. After leaving Stanford, he began working as an organ builder with John C. Swinford in Redwood City, California, and then apprenticed with Walter Holtkamp, Sr., of Cleveland, Ohio.

In 1955, Mr. Fisk set up business on his own and soon became known for his restorations of antique American organs, as well as for his own fine tracker organs. He completed an impressive list of well-known instruments, including the organs in King's Chapel in Boston (Op. 44), the first three-manual tracker organ to be built in America in the 20th century; Memorial Church at Harvard University (Op. 46); Old West Church, Boston (Op. 55); Wellesley College (Op. 72); House of Hope Presbyterian Church, St. Paul Minnesota (Op. 78).

Charles Fisk died in Boston on December 16, 1983. At that time his new four-manual organ was installed at Stanford University (Op. 85). It was the last instrument to benefit from his personal supervision and is the first organ capable of being played in two temperaments: meantone and well-tempered. The organ for Rochester, was the last instrument that Charles Fisk saw and heard in its final location. C.B. Fisk, Inc. has most recently installed instruments at Yokohama Minato Mirai Hall (Op. 110) in Yokohama, Japan, the company's first venture overseas. An organ for the Seattle Symphony's Benaroya Hall (Op. 114) was unveiled in July 2000 and is the largest organ in the Pacific Northwest. A three manual organ was just recently inaugurated at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Op. 116). Designed and constructed in the best of the late-Romantic tradition based on the symphonic style of the great French organbuilder Aristide Cavallé-Coll, this organ is ideally suited for the performance of 19th and 20th century music.

A five-manual organ (Op. 120) for the Cathedrale de Lausanne, Switzerland was inaugurated in December 2003. A three manual organ (Opus 121) for Daniel Chapel, Furman University, Greenville, SC was dedicated in April 2004, and a two manual instrument (Opus 122) for Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (Shoreview, MN) was completed and inaugurated in May 2004.

For more information and future projects, check out the Fisk website at www.cbfish.com.