

# Möller Opus 8128

at The Church of the  
Holy Trinity, Philadelphia

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# Background

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Möller 8128 at First Baptist Church

Some scholars maintain that J.S. Bach composed his famous *Toccata and Fugue in D Minor* as a showcase for testing the scope of an organ. Similarly, it might not be far from the truth to say that the Möller Opus 8128 organ (Möller 8128), built in 1950, was constructed as a showpiece to demonstrate the Möller Company's talents as a premier organ builder.

Möller 8128 was designed with the assistance of Alexander McCurdy from the neighboring Curtis Institute of Music, and originally installed in First Baptist Church, Philadelphia, at 17th and Sansom, only blocks from The Church of the Holy Trinity (CHT) on Rittenhouse Square.

Because of this connection with Curtis, many organ students have practiced and offered student recitals on Möller 8128 over the years. Among this group are a large number of the currently renowned organists in Philadelphia.

In 1964, the organ attracted the attention of celebrated French organist and composer Maurice Duruflé. Duruflé was known for upholding the highest standards of the French tradition of organ playing and composition, with attention to meticulous detail. Monsieur Duruflé conducted his famous *Requiem*, accompanied by his equally renowned wife, Madame Duruflé, on the Möller organ. The first performance of (Curtis-trained) Gian Carlo Menotti's *Amahl & the Night Visitors*, after the original premier for television, took place at First Baptist with Möller 8128 serving as the orchestra.

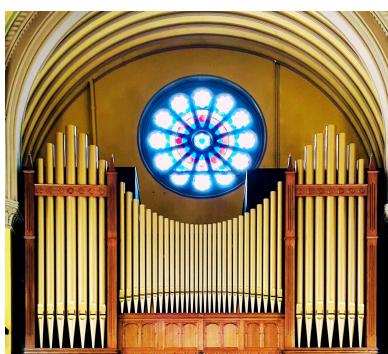
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The project that brought Möller 8128 to CHT had its beginning over 10 years ago, when First Baptist Church and Liberti Church, who bought the building at 17th and Sansom in 2014, decided to remove the organ from their premises and put it into storage. Fred Haas, organist, philanthropist, and trustee of the Wyncote Foundation, became involved and initiated conversation with John French, CHT music director at the time. Möller 8128 could not be left in mothballs! A project to update and rebuild the chancel organ (pipes and structure at the front of the church) had already been discussed. After 2016 when the current rectors John Gardner and Rachel Wenner Gardner arrived at CHT plans were hatched to combine a congregation-based organ capital campaign with Wyncote Foundation generosity, with two-fold purpose: restore the chancel organ and install Möller 8128 in the gallery (balcony at the back of the church).



*1881 Roosevelt Opus 74*



*Möller 8128 at Holy Trinity*

Installed in the gallery by Stephen L Emery Inc. organ builders, Möller 8128 is free to speak down the long, vaulted barrel ceiling of the church. It is playable from its original console now located in the balcony as well as from the chancel console at the front of the church. And in the chancel chambers are installed the best pipes from Holy Trinity's previous instruments, the Möller opus 9453 and the 1881 Roosevelt organs, offering additional flexibility for organ concerts and accompaniment for services and choral concerts. In the words of Ben Leiby, interim Director of Music at CHT, "There really isn't anything you can't play on this instrument".

# About

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Möller 8128 has a magnificent sound that captures the thrill of a raging full organ and the mystical strains of celestial strings. A unique feature of the design was to enclose the large trumpet stop (rank of pipes) and much of the pedal division behind expression shades. This gives the instrument the tremendous advantage of allowing for full organ sound when the shades are open but also an intense soft sound when closed. While ideal for French “symphonic” style organ works, it is suited as well for more intimate Baroque music, not to mention leading congregational singing and other liturgical music.

This 10 year, approximately \$2 million project would not have been possible without the Wyncote Foundation’s encouragement and financial support; CHT leadership vision and persistence; and the financial support and patience of the CHT congregation and community donors.



# Our Vision

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In a note to the congregation and community during fund-raising for the organ project, the organ committee wrote:



Equipped with the Möller Opus 8128, we will be even more able to fill Rittenhouse Square with rich, sacred sound! Our beautiful church is already home to paid and free concerts for the Center City community and beyond. People from all faiths and walks of life have found a place to rest and have their spirits roused by gifted musicians. Organists, choirs, string ensembles, vocalists, and jazz artists have offered their talents to eager ears from around the region.

Holy Trinity is also a home for the formation of the next generation of Philadelphia's musicians. Students from the Curtis Institute perform free concerts at Holy Trinity once a month to gain valuable experience. Singers from Choral Arts Philadelphia regularly perform in our space. Award-winning youth choirs and instrumental ensembles draw crowds in the hundreds. Holy Trinity's youngest members also get a chance to learn music fundamentals by playing, singing, and ringing handbells during our larger worship services. These and other rising stars could provide concert and sacred music for decades to come.

Möller Opus 8128 will help us to bring even more music and musical instruction to the greater Philadelphia region. By restoring this organ's voice, we hope to breathe more life into the church and the city. Those who hold to faith in anything greater than themselves will find their souls stirred by this organ's tones.

# Sioplisi - Moller 8128 Gallery

Great	Swell	Choir	Pedal
8' Principal	8' Rohrbourdon	8' Montre	32' Bourdon
8' Harmonic Flute	8' Geigen	8' Nachthorn	16' Contrebasse
8' Gemshorn	8' Rohrflöte	8' Erzähler	16' Bourdon (ext)
8' Principal	16' Rorbourdon	8' Montre	32' Bourdon
4' Spitzflöte	8' Viole de Gambe	8' Erzähler Celeste (TC)	16' Rohrburdon (Sw)
4' Octav	4' Geigen Octav	4' Prestant	16' Violone (ext Sw Geigen)
2 2/3' Octav Quinte	4' Flute ⌂	4' Koppelflöte	10 2/3' Quinte
2' Super Octav	2' Octavin	2 2/3' Nazard	8' Principal
IV Fourniture	V Plein Jeu	2' Blockflöte	8' Octave (ext)
III Scharff	16' Fagotto	1 3/5' Tierce	8' Bourdon (Ext)
8' Trompette Harmonique (Ch)	8' Trompette	III Scharf	8' Rohrflöte (Sw)
8' Bombarde (Ped)	8' Oboe	8' Krummhorn	5 1/3' Quinte
Unison Off	8' Vox Humana	8' Trompette Harmonique	4' Choralbass
Gt Sub	4' Clarion	8' Bombarde (Ped)	4' Super Octave (ext)
Gt Super	8' Trompette Harmonique (Ch)	Chimes	4' Bourdon (ext)
	Unison Off	Unison Off	III Mixture
	Sw Sub	Ch Sub	32' Grand Cornet
	Sw Super	Ch Super	16' Bombarde
			16' Bassoon (Sw)
			8' Bombarde (ext)
			4' Clarion (ext)
			8' Trompette Harmonique

# Chancel Organ

Our church is blessed with two organs, which can play independently or together. The Chancel organ was rebuilt and installed by Emery Brothers Organ Builders, using many pipes from the Möller 9453, previously housed in the Gallery. The console in the chancel can control both the Gallery and the Chancel organs.

## Sioplisi Chancel Organ

All pipes are from the Moller 9453 except those in italics. Asterisks denote ranks that are from the Roosevelt Op 74. The Violone in the Pedal is from the 1898 Haskell chancel organ.

Great	Swell	Choir	Pedal
8' Principal	<i>16' Gedeckt (ext)</i>	8' Concert Flute*	32' Resultant
8' Clarabella/ Doppleflöte *	8' Stopped Flute*	8' Erzähler	16' Violone
4' Principal	8' Salicional	8' Erzähler Celeste (TC)	16' Bourdon
II Mixture	8' Voix Celeste	4' Rohrflöte*	16' Gedeckt (Sw)
<i>8' Trumpet (Sw)</i>	4' Principal	1 1/3' Larigot	8' Violone (ext)
Unison Off	4' Harmonic Flute*	8' Clarinet	8' Bourdon (ext)
Great Sub	III Mixture	Unison Off	8' Stopped flute (Sw)
Great Super	<i>16' Double Trumpet (ext)</i>	Ch sub	4' Bourdon (ext)
	8' Trumpet	Ch super	16' Double Trumpet (Sw)
	4' Clarion (ext)		8' Trumpet (Sw)
	8' Oboe		4' Clarion (Sw)
	Unison Off		
Sw Sub			
Sw super			

# Thank You!

We wish to thank our generous donors, organ builders, clergy & lay leaders, and all who helped make this project possible.

## Great

*\$100,000 and above*

The Wyncote Foundation  
The Church of the Holy Trinity

## Swell

*\$10,000-\$50,000*

Carol Burns & Horace MacVaugh  
Margaret & Will Dowling  
David & Pamela Ehret  
Sally Griffith & James Pringle  
Andy Guknecht & Ben Leiby  
Bevan Lawson  
Madelyn Mignatti  
David Otwell & Jeannie Welsh  
Peter Ryker

## Choir

*\$3,000 - \$10,000*

Amy & Ralph Arcaro  
Gail Caruso  
Kathy Chase  
Jack & Claire Donohue  
The Gardner Family  
The Gutknecht Family Charitable Fund  
Gordon Henderson & Maggie Mund  
Ben Lariccia  
Peg Mertz  
Shreve Simpson

## Leadership

**Clergy & Staff:** The Rev. Alan Neale, The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner, The Rev. John Gardner, Margaret DiPinto  
**Musicians:** John French, Ben Leiby & Donald Meineke

**Lead Gift:** Andy Gutknecht & Ben Leiby

**Organ Builders:** Stephen L. Emery, LLC (Gallery Organ); Emery Brothers (Chancel Organ)

## Pedal

*\$10-\$3,000*

John Alden  
Todd Armstrong  
Richard Bardowell  
Doris Barkey  
Tanya Borman-Voit  
Emmanual Brown  
Ray & Ashley DelBianco  
Teresa Daprile  
Jack Downes  
Phillip Duffy  
Keri & Jennifer Flanagan  
Alma Frasier  
Scott Henrickson  
Simson & Cristina Hui  
Marcy Kadin  
Marta Kokron  
Joshua Karstendick & Ali Shott  
Bob Kestler  
Christopher Labonte  
Martha & Thomas Lipscomb  
Karen McAllister  
Nancy Middlebrook  
Nancy Rasmussen  
Ashley & Fred Ritter  
Jon Sagle & Amy Perkins  
Richard Seifert  
Lynette Sievert  
Mark Washington & Dariel Janerette  
Reauchean Williams

**Organ Steering Committee:** Ashley DelBianco, Ben Leiby, John French, Will Dowling, Thomas Lipscomb, Peter Ryker, Representatives of PNC, Roy Harker (First Baptist Church)

**Consultants:** Partners for Sacred Places