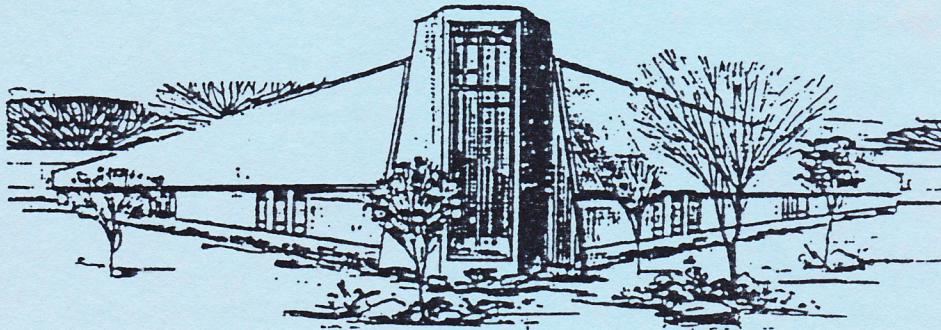


WIGTON Organ

Blessing & Dedication Recital



at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church  
Sterling Heights, Michigan  
October 27, 1996



**DEDICATION RECITAL OF THE WIGTON ORGAN**

**MARILYN MASON**

UNIVERSITY ORGANIST, THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Toccata, Adagio, and Fugue, BWV 564

Bach  
(1685-1750)

Partita, "O God Thou Faithful God" BWV 767

Bach

Marche on a Theme of Handel

Alexandre Guilmant

Variations "Heil dir im Siegeskranz"

J. C. Rinck  
(1770-1846)



*Two Living Composers*

Suite for Organ\*

Semplice

Idyll

Dance

Gerald Bales

Sweet Hour of Prayer\*

William Bolcom



Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, BWV 565

J. S. Bach

*\* Commissioned by Marilyn Mason and dedicated to her.*



## MARILYN MASON

Marilyn Mason is University Organist and Chairman of the Organ Department of the University of Michigan. Her extensive career as concert organist, lecturer, adjudicator and teacher has carried her throughout the Western world. She was the first American woman to play in Westminster Abbey, the first woman organist to play in Latin America, and the first American organist to play in Egypt. During one single year, invitations took her to five different continents. She has served as adjudicator at almost every major competition in the world. Marilyn Mason's dedication to contemporary music is evidenced in the 40 organ works which she has commissioned and premiered. Currently she is pursuing her commitment to stylistic integrity through scholarly research into the construction and tonal design of historic European instruments. Recently sixteen research tours have focused on historic organs in France, North Germany, Saxony, and Spain.

In 1987 she was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Music Degree by the University of Nebraska, where she had served as consultant for the Casavant mechanical action organ. Recently, she was chosen Performer of the Year by the New York Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and presented a concert of commissioned works at the Riverside Church, New York City.

Her discography includes music of Bach, Pachelbel, Handel, Mondonville, and contemporary composers on Columbia and Musical Heritage labels.

Marilyn Mason has served as a consultant to various churches and schools including the Fisk organ at the University of Michigan, the Wilhelm organ in Ann Arbor, the Walker organ at First United Methodist Church, Rochester, and as our consultant for the Wigton organ.

## The organ at St. Cyril

It has been a special joy to serve as consultant to the Wigton organ here at St. Cyril and to work with Father Mikus, members of the parish, and David Wigton, organ builder in this project.

As consultant for the organ, I want you to know how pleased I am with the results of our vision. I also want to review some related matters and I take this opportunity to visit with you.

The pipe organ is the oldest keyboard instrument. For me, it is the most interesting keyboard instrument. Every organ is different and, as well, every acoustical setting is different, so no two instruments are alike.

A pipe organ has three essential components: many pipes, a wind supply to provide air to those pipes and a key desk. Each instrument varies according to the number of pipes; each key desk or "console" is built according to the builder's design.

An organ may be judged on two specific points: first the sound itself, and next, the "action" or the way the keys "act." I am impressed and delighted with the sound of our Wigton organ. The principals (the main sound of the organ) are full and round. The flutes of the organ blend beautifully into the ensemble. The reed tones are brilliant. The individual registers (or "stops" ) each have a personality of their own. The general overall sound of the organ is thrilling. It is brilliant; it fills the space of the sanctuary which provides a special ambience for the sound.,

The action of our Wigton organ is termed "mechanical-action." This is different from the "electro-pneumatic action" which has been used in the 19th century .

Mechanical-action is the original action of pipe organs. Mechanical-action was used in the historic organs of Europe, in use



long before electricity was invented. In mechanical-action, the fingers of the player are extended through the keys, which in turn act upon the pallet under the pipe to permit it to speak. There is a great deal of sensitivity provided here, as the attack upon the pallet may be quick, providing a quick attack upon the speaking pipe, or the attack may be more moderate. The release of the key provides an important part of the pipe speech. In the electro-pneumatic action, there is no flexibility in the speech of the pipe: it is as if you turned a light switch on or off. The action of our Wigton organ is extremely sensitive. It is light, delicate and immediately responsive. It is a satisfaction to make music on such a sensitive action.

Further, the organ is a visual delight. Today, standing in the sanctuary, it is a joy to behold. We are happy before we even hear a note. As the old builders knew, we hear with our eyes as well.

Today the pipe organ is the perfect musical instrument to aid the service of worship. It provides the accompaniments for congregational worship. It enhances the setting of the mass.

The Wigton organ at St. Cyril's is a gem. It will provide joy, happiness, comfort and satisfaction to all of you for the next hundred years.

I want to say special thanks to Father Mikus and all those who so kindly worked on this project with me. And I wish to say especially: CONGRATULATIONS to every member of St. Cyril's!

*Marilyn Mason,*  
CONSULTANT

## The Organ Stoplist

### Manual I

8'	Principal	58 pipes	24 facade 75% tin; rest 50% tin
8'	Chimney Flute	58 pipes	12 wood basses; 30% tin
4'	Octave	58 pipes	50% tin
2'	Fifteenth	58 pipes	50% tin
	Sesquialtera II	104 pipes	30% tin
1-1/3'	Mixture II	116 pipes	50% tin
8'	Trumpet	58 pipes	Zinc and 50% tin
8'	Rohrschalmei	58 pipes	Brass and 50% tin

### Manual II

8'	Gedackt	46 pipes	1-12 from Man. I, rest revoiced wood
8'	Viole	58 pipes	Zinc basses; rest 50% tin
8'	Viole Céleste	46 pipes	50% tin
4'	Spitzflute	58 pipes	30% tin
2'	Gemshorn	58 pipes	30% tin
1-1/3'	Larigot	58 pipes	30% tin
	Sesquialtera II		Either/Or
8'	Trumpet		Either/Or
8'	Rohrschalmei		Either/Or
	Tremulant		

### Pedal

16'	Bourdon	30 pipes	Stopped wood
8'	Bourdon	12 pipes	Extension of 16' Bourdon

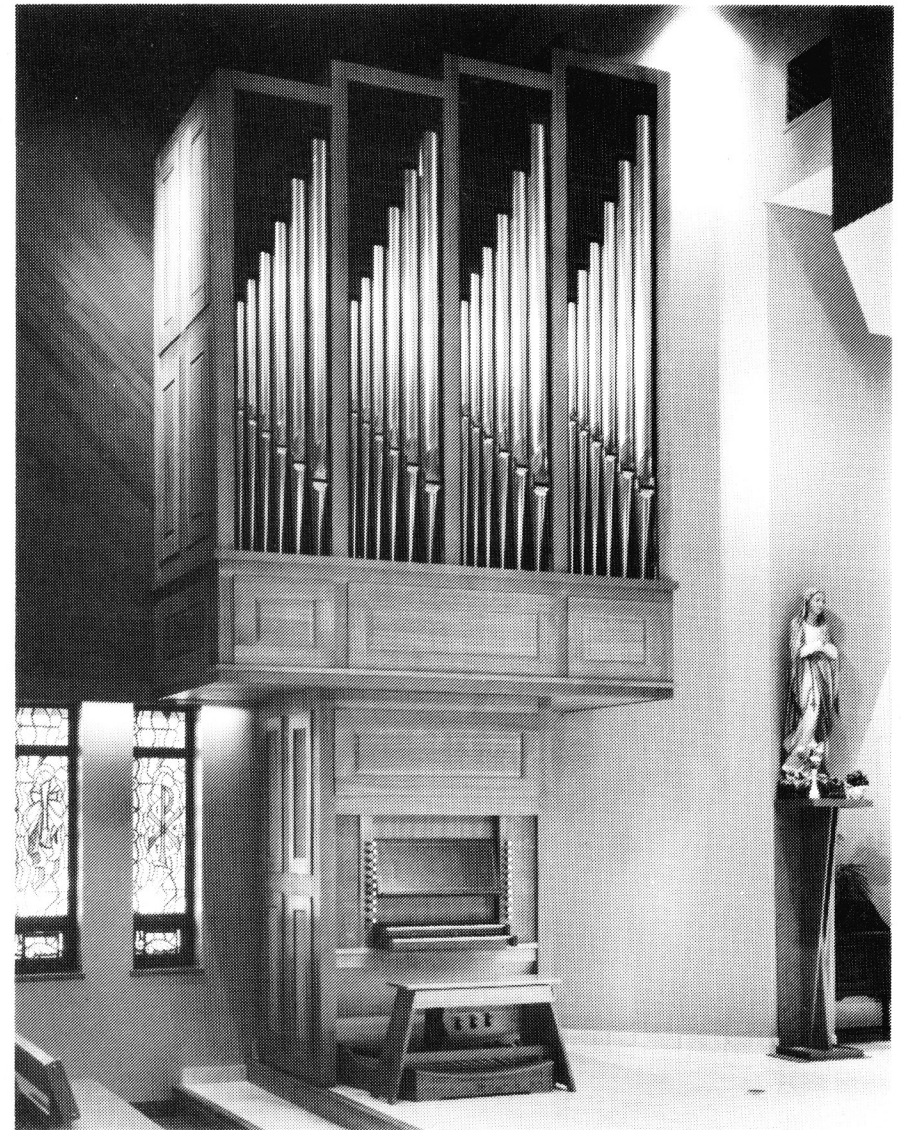
**Couplers:** II to I; I to Pedal; II to Pedal; on hitch-down pedals

**Totals:** 15 stops, 19 registers, 17-1/2 ranks, 934 pipes

### Console Features:

Balanced Swell pedal; all pipes except 8' Principal and 16'-8' Bourdon in box, under expression. Adjustable bench; lighted music rack and pedalboard; key naturals of bone, sharps of ebony; pedal naturals of maple, plastic sharps. Mechanical key and stop action; casework of white oak with "Danish oil" finish; trim of black walnut; keydesk and bench varnished.

*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam!*



**Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church**

*Sterling Heights, Michigan*

Wigton Pipe Organs, Inc.

Dryden, Michigan

**1996**



## About the Organ

The new organ for Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church has been designed primarily to enhance worship in the church, and only secondarily for concert use. The pastor was very open to placing the organ as near to the room's main axis as possible, for the best sound dispersion.

The organ case is free-standing. It has a narrow pedestal, for the smallest possible use of floor space. The upper portion is arranged in four flats of pipes that follow the slope of the ceiling, the tallest being 24 feet off the floor. The case, although contemporary in style, follows classical principles of organ construction. There are no internal supports - the casework members themselves support the windchests and pipes.

The case is made of quarter-sawn and rift-sawn white oak. Joinery is pegged mortise and tenon. The pipe shades and console trim are walnut. Wigton Pipe Organs milled and kiln-dried the majority of the lumber.

Both key action and stop action are mechanical. No electricity is used except for the blower, tremulant and lighting. Key action is of the suspended type, a very sensitive action especially well-known in classical French organs. The drawknobs are arranged at a 15 degree angle rather than straight, for the organist's convenience.

Tonal features have been designed to make the organ as versatile as possible. Both manual divisions are placed on one windchest, which makes sharing some stops possible. Everything is under expression except for the 8' Principal. Three of the stops are "either/or," which means they may be played on either manual keyboard, but not both at the same time. The Pedal 16' Bourdon, placed behind the organ in a shallow chamber, is playable at both 16' and 8' pitches.

Pipe organs are very labor-intensive instruments to build. Almost 3,000 hours were spent building the organ. David K. Wigton did the design, some voicing and much construction of the organ. However, many other people were involved in the building and installation. Jeffrey Perry, casework, chests; Thomas Schuster, racking, installation; Linda Dzuris, racking. Also involved were Corey Drayer; Larry Monahan; Margaret Wigton; Anne Marie, Joel and Elizabeth Wigton; Kenneth and Marie Wigton. Claus and Sharon Canell of Erie, Pennsylvania built most of the metal pipes. American Organ Supply of Milwaukee, Wisconsin built the wooden pipes. Richard Swanson of Grand Ledge, Michigan is responsible for most of the voicing and tonal finishing. His expertise was invaluable.

It was a pleasure to work with Dr. Marilyn Mason, who was the consultant for the church. Her suggestions and encouragement were a great help. We

also appreciate the friendly manner of many church staff and volunteers who assisted in the installation, and generally made our work at the church more pleasant. Our special thanks go to Father Elemir Mikus, Pastor of Sts. C. & M., whose kindness and keen interest in the project were a blessing to us.

## About the Builder

David K. Wigton began full-time organbuilding in 1972 when he accepted a position with Berkshire Organ Company in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Mr. Wigton has, since 1977, been an organbuilder in the Detroit area. Wigton Pipe Organs has been involved with new, rebuilt, and restored instruments, most of them with mechanical action. This project is the company's opus 20. Mr. Wigton is a member of the American Institute of Organbuilders, which granted him the Master Organbuilder certificate in 1980.

## About Tracker Organs

A pipe organ is a keyboard instrument which produces sounds by forcing air through whistles and reeds called pipes. The organ has three keyboards: two for the hands called manuals and one for the feet called the pedal. The lower manual is called the "Great" organ because it controls the pipes which in combination produce the grand full organ sound. The "Swell" (upper manual) is so called because its pipes are housed in a box which has shutters across the front which may be opened or closed to "swell" the sound. The Pedal has the deepest-toned pipes to provide a bass to the entire organ, but it also has higher pitched pipes and can be used to play a melody. All of the keyboards can be coupled together to combine the full resources of the organ. (This organ has most of the pipes inside the box, so the manuals are "I" and "II".)

From about 1900 until 1950, most organs in America used electrical, pneumatic, or electro-pneumatic systems to open the valves under the pipes, admitting air to them, causing them to sound. Before that time, and increasingly today, organs are constructed with a system of levers and wood strips (called "trackers") to connect the keyboards to the valves under the pipes. In this system, the only power used for the key action comes from the player's fingers or feet. While this might seem to be disadvantageous for the player, in actuality, with careful design and engineering, the touch of a good tracker organ is very light and easy to play.

The inherent simplicity of this purely mechanical action makes it far more durable and free from malfunction. There are organs in Europe dating from the fifteenth century which used this system and are still performing faithfully.