

The Organ in St. James the Great, Hanslope

This instrument is essentially a rebuild of the organ constructed circa 1927 by Messrs. Rushworth and Dreaper, with tubular pneumatic actions, for Merton College, Oxford. In 1967 it was fully rebuilt and relocated to St. Andrew, Headington, by J.W. Walker; undergoing significant tonal changes along the way – which, to summarize, involved the ousting of ‘heavy’ unison ranks in favour of upperwork. Comparing the respective specifications suggests that this may well, within the Great division at least, have been assisted by transposing two existing ranks up an octave; twelve new upper pipes then being provided to complete each register? The specifications are detailed hereunder:-

<u>Merton College (c.1927)</u>	<u>Headington (1967)</u>	<u>Hanslope (2009)</u>
<i>Pedal</i>		
Open Diapason 16	(Removed)	
Violone 16	Violone 16	Violone (A) 16
Sub Bass 16	Sub Bass 16	Bourdon (B) 16
Octave (ext.) 8	(Removed)	Octave (ext. A) 8
	Bass Flute (ext.) 8	Bass Flute (ext. B) 8
	Nachthorn 4	(Removed)
		Fifteenth (ext. A) 4
		Contra Oboe (Sw) 16
<i>Great</i>		
Open Diapason #1 8	Open Diapason 8	Open Diapason 8
Claribel Flute 8	Claribel Flute 8	Claribel Flute 8
Open Diapason #2 8	Principal 4	Principal 4
Wald Flöte 4	Block Flute 2	Flute 4
		Twelfth (clamp) 2 2/3
Dulciana 8	Mixture (19,22) II	Fifteenth 2
		Tierce (clamp) 1 3/5
<i>Swell (enclosed)</i>		
Stopped Diapason 8	Stopped Diapason 8	Stopped Diapason 8
Echo Gamba 8	Echo Gamba 8	Echo Gamba 8
Voix Celeste TC 8	Sesquialtera TC II	Voix Celestes TC 8
Principal 4	Principal 4	Principal 4
	Suabe Flute (clamp) 4	Stopped Flute (cl.) 4
Open Diapason 8	Mixture (22,26,29) III	Mixture (15,19,22) III
		Contra Oboe (C) 16
Oboe 8	Trumpet 8	Trumpet 8
		Oboe (ext. C) 8
<i>Couplers</i>		
Swell to Pedal	Swell to Pedal	Swell to Pedal
Swell to Great	Swell to Great	Swell to Great
Swell Octave	Swell Octave	Swell Octave
Swell Suboctave	Swell Suboctave	Swell Suboctave
Great to Pedal	Great to Pedal	Swell Unison Off
		Great to Pedal

The building frame, casework to impost level, soundboards, drawstop machines, and winding system etc. are essentially those from the 1927 Rushworth and Dreaper organ built for Merton College. Considerable revision of the internal layout was necessary, however, to accommodate the instrument in its new location. Originally the Swell and Great were side by side: now the Swell is behind the Great with the Pedal 'Roosevelt' chests arranged along either side. The upper section of the casework is new, but the lower panelled areas comprise sections of the original modified to suit. The primaries of the existing pneumatic actions have all been electrified using Peterson equipment. The new two rank 'clamp' to the Great has 'direct electric' (solenoid) slider operation.

Tracing the specification details left across the page from the current will provide due detail concerning the earlier layout of this instrument, and of its development around the two main 61 note (CC – c4) soundboards; five slide and six slide respectively. All key foundation stops survive from 1927; but Walker reordered two of the Great ranks, adding three mixtures and a trumpet, upon removing the organ to Headington in 1967. At this time the Pedal Open Wood was removed, and a further 'unit' chest provided to 'extend' the Sub Bass rank upwards by one octave from its original 32 note (CC – g1) compass and create a Bass Flute. An independent 'Nachthorn' (made up of some poor Gemshorn pipes) was also installed; on a 'unit' chest which now carries a two octave upper 'extension' of the Violone rank to create an 8ft. Octave and a 4ft. Fifteenth. The Swell Suabe Flute was added (on a 'clamp') by A. Foster-Waite of Newbury in 1987.

This instrument underwent further tonal alterations and additions during its relocation to Hanslope in 2009. Another two slide 'clamp' was added to the Great soundboard to carry the Twelfth and Tierce, the latter being duly sourced from F.H. Browne's stock of salvaged pipework. The Great 4' Flute, Twelfth, and Fifteenth were salvaged from the 1921 Ernest Holt instrument present within the church. The new Swell Oboe unit, comprising 1950's Rushworth and Dreaper pipework, came again from the builders' own stock on a 'direct electric' chest. The Swell Celeste, similarly sourced, and useful liturgically, has been reinstated; and twenty-four trebles have been added (as detailed above) to 'extend' the Pedal Violone. The Swell Mixture has been reconfigured at 15, 19,22 pitches from the surviving 1967 Walker pipework – to better effect in chorus. The wind pressures are 3½ inches of water across all three divisions of the instrument.

The refurbished original console, in light oak, is mobile within range of a point on the easternmost column of the southern nave arcade. This is linked to the organ through a Dedham Organ Systems/Kimber Allen electronic scanning system, and is 'all-electric' in its operation. A drawstop combination capture system is adjustable on twelve levels with locking facility; providing six thumb pistons each to Great and Swell along with six 'general' thumb pistons. Six toe pistons duplicate those of the Swell, and a further six are provided for the Pedal. Two reversible thumb pistons are provided for Swell to Great and Great to Pedal, the latter being duplicated by toe piston. Swell operation is by centrally mounted 'balanced' rocker pedal. The 'setter' and 'general cancel' thumb pistons are mounted in their conventional positions at either end of the lower manual key slip. The drawstop knobs are engraved in black for 'speaking registers' and red for couplers respectively. The pedalboard is radiating and concave to RCO specification.

iThe Organ at SS Simon & Jude, Castlethorpe

Builders:- Leighton Organs Leighton Buzzard

Department and Stop list

Pedal	Key action	El	Stop action	Compass-low	Compass-high	Keys	
1	Bourdon				16		
2	Bass Flute				8		
3	Octave Flute				4		
Great	Key action	El	Stop action	Compass-low	Compass-high	Keys	
4	Sub Bass				16	CC-BB	
5	Open Diapason				8		
6	Stopped Diapason				8		
7	Salicional				8		
8	Principal				4		
Swell	Key action	El	Stop action	Compass-low	Compass-high	Keys	Enclosed
9	Salicional				8		
10	Salicet				4		
11	Fifteenth				2		
12	Tremulant						

Couplers

Swell to Pedal

Swell to Great

Great to Pedal

Details

Blowing **B.O.B.**

Accessories

Balanced Swell pedal

The organ has electric action and both the keyboards and pedalboard have a light touch.