

THE ORGAN OF NOTRE DAME DE FRANCE, LEICESTER SQUARE, LONDON

In 1868 an organ was built by August Gern in the newly opened Notre Dame de France in Leicester Square (the French Catholic Church in London). The circular building was built in 1793 as a panorama to house very large paintings for public viewing. It was Gern's first organ after leaving the employ of Cavaille-Coll. It was a two manual with 24 speaking stops. In 1938 it was rebuilt and enlarged to three manuals by J. W. Walker & Sons who revoiced the reeds. During World War Two the building was bombed and subsequently the instrument was removed and stored by Walker's, who in 1955 built an organ incorporating only a few of the Gern ranks. In 1986-7 the organ was overhauled, tonally reconstructed and enlarged by B. C. Shepherd & Son of Edgware. The console was refitted with stop knobs replacing the horseshoe stop key layout. The original Gern stops were identified and other secondhand French stops were added, including some by Cavaille-Coll. Other stops were replaced by better secondhand ranks, and tonal additions were made to all departments including 32ft flue and reed stops, and a Chamade reed. Most reed ranks were revoiced in the French style by Keith Bance, who also assisted with action work. The Organiste Titulaire at the time was the late Mark Buxton. Since completion of this work there have been regular organ concerts by famous British and overseas recitalists.

The sanctuary of the church was reordered in 2003, and the building was redecorated in 2004, when the upper front pipes were repainted.

In 2010 the console was refurbished and rewired, new solid state switching was fitted for the coupling action, and a new multi-channel piston capture system was fitted, with a stepper. Several extended mutations were added to the Positif and Pedale and extra couplers and pistons were added. The Bombarde division was made floating. A Pedal divide was fitted, with a 12 position divide switch, and this has octave, super octave couplers, and a unison off. A programmable General Crescendo Pedal with four memories was fitted. An electric shutter opening motor was fitted to the Recit box, in place of the faulty electro-pneumatic engine. This work was done by B. C. Shepherd & Sons in consultation with Duncan Middleton the Organiste Titulaire.

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IBO Business Member of The Institute of British Organ Building

THE ORGAN OF NOTRE DAME DE FRANCE, LEICESTER SQUARE, LONDON, WC2.

GRAND-ORGUE 15 stops

BOURDON	A	16
DIAPASON		8
MONTRE		8*
FLUTE HARMONIQUE		8*
BOURDON	A	8
SALICIONAL	B	8*
PRESTANT		4^
FLUTE OCTAVIANTE		4+
QUINTE		2.2/3
DOUBLETTE		2
TIERCE		1.3/5
FOURNITURE (19,22,26)		3-4 Rangs
BOMBARDE	C	16
TROMPETTE	C	8
CLAIRON	C	4

OCTAVES GRAVES =

POSITIF EXPRESSIVE 14 stops

VIOLONCELLE	G	16+
GAMBE	G	8+
COR DE NUIT		8
UNDA MARIS (TC)		8
PRESTANT	H	4~
FLUTE		4
NASARD		2.2/3*
SEPTIEME	M	2.2/7 =
FLAGEOLET		2*
TIERCE		1.3/5
LARIGOT	M	1.1/3
SEPTIEME	M	1.1/7 =
SIFFLET	H	1
CROMORNE		8

TREMOLO
OCTAVES
OCTAVES GRAVES
UNISSON MUET

BOMBARDE (Floating) 4 stops

BOMBARDE	C	16
TROMPETTE HARMONIQUE	I	8
CLAIRON HARMONIQUE	I	4
TROMPETTE EN CHAMADE		8
CORNET (Prepared for)		5 Rangs

RECIT EXPRESSIVE 14 stops

QUINTATON	D	16
DIAPASON		8
FLUTE TRAVERSIERE		8
VIOLE DE GAMBE		8~
VOIX CELESTE (TC)		8~
PRINCIPAL CONIQUE		4
QUINTATON	D	4
OCTAVIN		2
PLEIN JEU (22,26,29)		3 Rangs
BASSON	E	16+
TROMPETTE	F	8
BASSON-HAUTBOIS	E	8+
VOIX HUMAINE		8
CLAIRON	F	4

TREMOLO
OCTAVES
OCTAVES GRAVES
UNISSON MUET

PEDALE 20 stops

CONTRABASSE	J	32
CONTRABASSE	J	16*
VIOLONBASSE		16
SOUBASSE	K	16*
BOURDON	A	16
QUINTE	A	10.2/3 =
PRINCIPAL	L	8
SALICIONAL	B	8*
BOURDON	K	8*
GRANDE TIERCE	A	6.2/5 =
QUINTE	A	5.1/3 =
SEPTIEME	A	4.4/7 =
OCTAVE	L	4
FLUTE	K	4
MIXTURE (19,22)		2 Rangs
CONTRE BOMBARDE	I	32
BOMBARDE	I	16
BASSON	E	16+
TROMPETTE	I	8
CHALUMEAU	E	4+

* Original Stops by Gern 1868
+ Cavaille-Coll stops added 1987 & ^ 1991
~ French stops added 1987

ACCOUPEMENTS

COPULA RECIT AU GRAND-ORGUE
COPULA RECIT AU POSITIF
COPULA POSITIF AU GRAND-ORGUE
TIRASSE RECIT
TIRASSE POSITIF
TIRASSE GRAND-ORGUE
BOMBARDE AU RECIT =
BOMBARDE AU POSITIF =
BOMBARDE AU GRAND-ORGUE =
TIRASSE BOMBARDE

Balanced Recit and Positif pedals
Balanced Programmable General Crescendo pedal =
8 General thumb pistons
8 thumb pistons to Recit
8 thumb pistons to Positif
8 thumb pistons to Grand-Orgue
4 thumb pistons to Bombarde =
Reversible thumb pistons for RECIT/G-O RECIT/POS =
POS/G-O = TIR. Rec. = TIR. Pos. = TIR G-O.
3 + forward stepper thumb pistons = 1 - reverse stepper
thumb piston = ANN. (General Cancel) piston
AJ. (Setter piston) G-O & PED COMBS ACC.

8 Recit toe pistons 8 Pedale toe pistons Reversible TIR RECIT & TIR G-O toe pistons
1 + forward = and 1 - reverse stepper toe piston =

Sonic Services coupling system =
Sonic Services Piston Capture System
with 32 divisional channels COMBINAISONS DE CLAVIERS =
and 512 general channels COMBINAISONS DE GENERALES =

COUPURE PEDALE (Pedal divide) with 12 position divide switch, and switches for UNISSON
MUT, TIRASSE 4 & TIRASSE 2 =
COMBS. RECIT AUX PIEDS. COMBS GENS. AUX PIEDS (Switch to transfer Generals to Recit toe
pistons) =
Switches to turn on COUPURE PEDALE=, SEQUENCEUR=, CRESCENDO GENERALE =
APPUYEZ POUR REPROGRAMMER SEQUENCEUR (Reset for Sequencer) =

Crescendo setter panel CRESCENDO GENERALE= VERIFIER (Setter)= NIVEAU (Check)=
MEMOIRE 1 2 3 4 (Memory levels)= CONFIRMER

Letters by stops indicate extensions and borrowings

= Indicates additions 2010

Balanced Recit pedal Balanced Positif pedal Balanced Crescendo pedal =

Electro-pneumatic action. Detached Drawstop console.

Wind Pressures:

Grand-Orgue 3.7/8". Recit 4.1/4". Positif 3.1/2". Bombarde 5.3/8". Pedal 3.7/8, 4.1/2", 5.3/8".

Discus Blower. Fothergill Humidifier