

Redundant Pipe Organ

M0083

Unknown c.1850?

Saughall Methodist Church, Cheshire, UK

Chamber Organ

1 manual

5 stops

Tracker/mechanical action

The organ is in working order.

Compass CC to e4

Dimensions

Width 6ft

Depth 3 ft

Height 10ft

Stop List (no pitch indication on stop heads)

LHS

Coupler (*sic*) Drawstop rod is severed and restrained with a block.
Original function unknown.

Stop Diapason (8 ft)

Open Diapason (8 ft) Bottom octave
from SD

RHS

Fifteenth (2 ft)

Twelfth (2 2/3 ft) TC

Principal (4 ft)

Two broad metal foot pedals

RH draws all stops on RH jamb

LH withdraws all stops on RH jamb

Bellows are double rise, inverted fold with two wedge feeder bellows beneath.

Pumping handle fixture on left side of case. No pumping handle.

Small (1/4 HP?) electric motor/blower unit
(Watkins & Watson?).

Keyboard in good condition. Little wear.
Perhaps not original?

The case is of pitch pine with wooden
folding doors. Some wooden pipes protrude
above the skyline.



Keyboard surrounds and jambs are of mahogany (?)

Metal pipes are of lead. Many have sagged.

Open Diapason has tuning slides. Remaining metal ranks are without slides.

The display pipes are of half round wood.

Unsymmetric pipe distribution on the chest.

Wooden rollers.

History

The instrument came from the Barrow Methodist Church (nr. Chester, now closed) about 30 years ago (transported on a farm dray hauled by a tractor).

Two of the Barrow church members were 80 year old twin sisters who each played the organ in turn. It is reported that the organ was built by their father - whether he paid for it or had some skills is not known.

Based on this information, a timeline suggests the organ was put together from older instruments, and that would explain some of its puzzling features.

Character

This chamber organ has a certain charm. The Stopped Diapason is especially winning – broad in the bass; warm, gently clear elsewhere. Open Diapason rich and stringy, the Principal and Fifteenth bright yet reserved. The Twelfth is well integrated. A tutti of strength yet restraint, depth and clarity.

More photographs are available for email transmission, on request to the organ contact.

Availability

The instrument is immediately available because of a church redevelopment program shortly to begin.

Expressions of interest, and offers, are invited, without obligation, to the Church Contact.

Buyer makes all usual arrangements for dismantling and transport.

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