

The Choir is in the chamber that originally housed the VHS Great, Choir, and Pedal. Using available resources in a new scheme, the design of this division is where our tonal signature becomes obvious. An Open Flute is the workhorse of the Choir, with a Gemshorn and Celeste as the main strings. The Gemshorn is extended to 16' for use on the Great. VHS's "Ludwig's Tone" returns to the division (renamed the more common Ludwigtone) as a secondary undulating stop. A tertiary principal chorus exists here, as do various mutations and flutes. A lovely vintage 8' Clarinet rounds out the specification, and a new 8' Festival Trumpet provides the triumphant culmination of the full organ's sound.

Ordinarily, when specifying a three-manual organ of this size, we prefer a more substantial and independent Pedal division. (Indeed, I suspect that Holtkamp Sr. would have chastised us for only providing three ranks!) Spatial limitations precluded this, as did the wish to have as much color throughout the manual divisions as possible. Complemented by judicious use of digital 16' and 32' stops, these three voices are the most important in any Pedal division and certainly provide the independence desired.

So, what kind of organ is this? Is it a Muller? Is it a VHS? Is it a Holtkamp Sr.? I suppose it is representative of Muller, though it is not the instrument we would design if we were to begin from scratch. The new organ is classically American and represents the work of three important Ohio builders of different eras. It is brought into cohesiveness and harmony through intelligent and artistic voicing, traditional and well-designed mechanics, and a touch of happenstance that brought it all together.

We are honored to be part of the long-standing musical heritage at Gay Street United Methodist Church, and we sincerely thank the many people who worked with us over the years. It is because of their persistence and uncompromising commitment to excellence that this organ will continue to sing praises for generations to come.

Scott Hayes is the tonal director for Muller Pipe Organ Company and has been with the firm for over 20 years. Currently based in Virginia, he is also director of music at All Saints Episcopal Church in Richmond.

Photography: Jesse Braswell

Gay Street United Methodist Church • Mount Vernon, Ohio

Muller Pipe Organ Company Croton, Ohio

GREAT

16 Gemshorn (Ch.)
8 Principal*
8 Gemshorn (Ch.)
8 Open Flute (Ch.)
8 Bourdon*
4 Octave*
4 Spire Flute*
2 Super Octave*
Mixture IV*
8 Tromba (Ped.)
8 Festival Trumpet (Ch.)
Zimbelstern
Great 16, Unison Off, 4

SWELL (expressive)

16 Chimney Flute
8 Geigen Principal*
8 Chimney Flute (ext.)
8 Gambe*
8 Voix Celeste*
4 Principal
4 Harmonic Flute†
2½ Quint*
2 Doublette*
Mixture III*
16 Bassoon
8 Trumpet
8 Oboe (ext.)
8 Vox Humana†
4 Clarion (ext.)
Tremulant
Swell 16, Unison Off, 4

* Holtkamp

† Votteler-Holtkamp-Sparling

CHOIR (expressive)

8 Open Flute*
8 Gemshorn*
8 Gemshorn Celeste*
8 Ludwigtone†
4 Principal*
4 Chimney Flute*
2½ Nazard*
2 Flute*
1½ Tierce*
Mixture III*
8 Clarinet
8 Festival Trumpet
Chimes (digital)
Harp (digital)
Tremulant
Choir 16, Unison Off, 4

PEDAL

32 Bourdon (digital)
16 Open Wood (digital)
16 Bourdon*
16 Chimney Flute (Sw.)
16 Gemshorn (Ch.)
8 Principal*
8 Bourdon (ext.)
8 Chimney Flute (Sw.)
8 Gemshorn (Ch.)
4 Choral Bass (ext.)
4 Open Flute (Ch.)
32 Trombone (digital)
16 Trombone
16 Bassoon (Sw.)
8 Tromba (ext.)
4 Oboe (Sw.)
8 Festival Trumpet (Ch.)

Couplers

Great to Pedal 8, 4
Swell to Pedal 8, 4
Choir to Pedal 8, 4
Swell to Great 16, 8, 4
Choir to Great 16, 8, 4
Swell to Choir 16, 8, 4

Thumb Pistons

General 1-10
Swell 1-8
Great 1-8
Choir 1-8
Swell to Pedal
Great to Pedal
Choir to Pedal
Next
Previous
Set
Cancel

Toe Pistons

General 1-10
Pedal 1-5
Swell to Pedal
Great to Pedal
Choir to Pedal
Zimbelstern
32 Bourdon
32 Trombone
Next

Wind Pressures

Great: 3.5"
Swell: 5"
Choir: 5"
Pedal: 4"
Festival Trumpet: 7"