



### The Pipes

Many of the pipes are located in the pipe chamber on the west wall of the chancel, with others visible across the front wall. Each pipe is anchored over its air supply known as a windchest. Pressing a key opens the valve on the corresponding pipe to allow air to enter the pipe and produce sound. The three manuals and the pedalboard each have their own division of pipes, although the coupler tabs above the manuals make it possible to play the pipes from one division on a different manual.

*Fun fact:* The longest metal pipe visible in the organ chamber is composed of three separate sections that were assembled in place, making it easier to manage during the 2021 restoration.



### Transitions

The love of organ music at Hamline Church began before the current building was completed in 1928. The earlier church and its organ had burned in a spectacular fire on Christmas Day, 1925. The congregation made sure there would be space for an organ in the new building and a decision to install a Hook and Hastings organ was made that year.

Changes have continued over the years. The 44 large wooden pipes added in 2014 required the help of many to lift them up into the balcony and into the organ chamber. In 2017 several digital voices were added and electronic components were updated. In 2021 the nine ranks of reed pipes were removed from the organ for complete restoration.

The organ is regularly tuned and maintained by Moe Organ Company of Wadena, Minnesota.

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## About the Hamline Church Organ



Casavant Frères Organ



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### **The Chancel Organ**

In 1974 the Hook & Hastings chancel organ was replaced with organ #3217 built by the Casavant Frères Company of Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec. The antiphonal pipes were connected to the new organ as a “floating” fifth division accessible on each manual (keyboard) of the chancel organ.

The chancel console has three manuals and a pedalboard with 70 ranks of pipes for a total of 4,328 pipes. Each manual has 61 keys so each rank has 61 pipes, graduating in size for the pitch they will produce. Each pedal rank has 32 pipes to correspond to the 32 black and white keys of the pedalboard.

There are 53 stops which allow the organist to select which rank of pipes will speak. Many stops have the number 8 below the name which means that the longest pipe in that set of pipes is approximately 8 feet tall. A stop labeled 4' is for pipes half the size and sounds an octave higher and a 2' stop is an octave above that. A stop labeled 16' is for pipes twice as tall as an 8' pipe and sounds an octave lower. The largest is 32' for the pedalboard. Some stops show fractions such as 2-2/3 or 1-1/3 which are intended to be used in combination with more fundamental stops to add a colorful quality.



### **Pipe Divisions**

*Swell:* the uppermost of the three manuals is assigned to the swell division which features a generally softer tone. This division is in the swell box in the organ chamber and a foot pedal on the console can open and close the swell shutters to allow volume control.

*Great:* the middle manual controls the great division that provides the most full sound with many of the pipes visible on the front chancel wall.

*Positiv:* the bottom manual controls the positive division which features distinctive sounds. All of its pipes parade along the front of the chancel window.

*Pedal:* the lowest pitches are played on the pedalboard by the organist's feet. This division of pipes is next to the wall on both sides of the chancel window as well as some in the organ chamber.

Below each of the manuals are small piston buttons which can be programmed to select stops instantly instead of pulling them out manually. There are ten general pistons which change the stops for the three manuals and pedalboard all at once and there are also six pistons for each manual. There is also a memory system which provides 30 additional levels of piston memory.



### **The Antiphonal Organ**

In 1972 a second console and antiphonal pipes in the balcony were installed at the request of Hamline University to provide an organ teaching location for their students. These pipes were later connected to the main console, allowing them to be played by either console. All the pipes for this division are visible on the rear balcony walls with one rank of horizontal pipes in front of all the vertical pipes. This type of horizontal reed pipe, often called a “Trompette en Chamade,” allows the sound to project to great effect for a fanfare or solo.

Gravity had caused the largest horizontal pipes to sag. They were repaired and reinstalled during the 2021 renovation.

