

THE ST. JOHN'S HOOK AND HASTINGS PIPE ORGAN

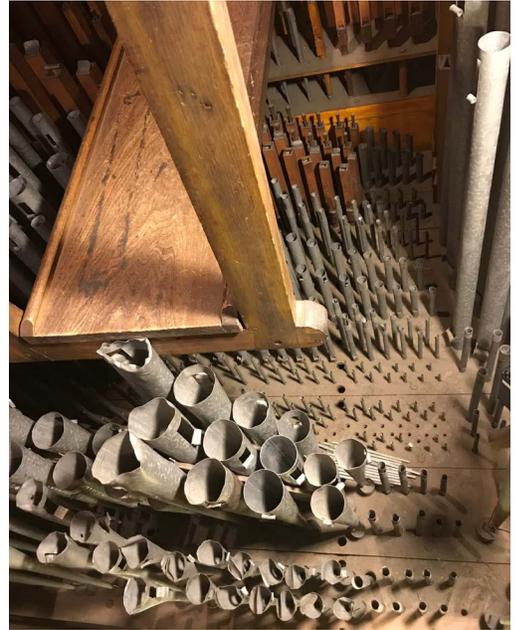
Supporting much of the musical programming at St. John's, and The Choir School of Newport County, is a historic organ, built in Boston and installed as part of the original construction of the building in 1894. Hook and Hastings (1827–1935) was one of the pre-eminent American organ builders of the 19th century, and St. John's was fortunate to have commissioned a work of such quality and integrity. It is an irreplaceable gem, historically and musically.

There are 1,769 pipes in the organ, from 16 feet long to a half inch in speaking length. All but five of the painted façade pipes speak. In 1934, the Hook and Hastings company returned to electrify the action of the organ and make some judicious tonal additions. Since then, there has been very little done to the organ beyond routine maintenance and tuning. Eighty-



Wooden bass pipes; scaling, water-damaged chamber walls

six years more have taken their toll on the mechanisms of the instrument. A roof leak fifteen years ago damaged the chamber walls and a windchest. We have accomplished several critical repairs to ensure that the organ keeps playing. Missing



Damaged metal pipes in foreground

pipes have been returned; we await the urgent repair of hundreds more, damaged over 126 years, and a cleaning of the instrument to return its original clarity, volume, and majesty.

KEEP THE PIPES SINGING! As a part of a 125th anniversary [capital campaign](#) in 2019, we received grants of **\$1.3 million to restore the roof and all exterior walls.** We are now raising \$550,000 toward the thorough chamber repair (see photo above), pipe cleaning, and mechanical restoration in Spring 2021, alongside major plaster and stone repair work inside the church. The restoration of the organ will take about 18 months, and has been contracted to the nationally recognized artisans of S. L. Huntington & Co., Stonington, CT (www.slhorgans.com).

In February 2018, the original blower died after over 100 years of use. In its damp basement environment, it had rusted beyond restoration, so a suitable vintage blower was purchased to replace it. This was installed along with a “hospital-clean” room on a concrete pad to prevent future moisture problems, drawing air from the church above. The new blower provides a quieter air supply and a solid foundation for the restoration to come.

With your help, we'll rebuild a masterpiece for the inspiration of future generations.

Thank you for your timely support!

Tax deductible checks may be made payable to St. John's Church (memo: Organ Fund), and mailed to 61 Poplar Street, Newport RI, 02840. Or: www.tinyurl.com/OrganChallenge



With your help, the formerly dreadful blower area is now heavenly . . .