

Cover feature

Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc., Warrensburg, Missouri Immaculata Church, Saint Marys, Kansas

In the middle of Kansas, seemingly in the middle of nowhere, sits the newly constructed Immaculata Church in Saint Marys. The magnificent structure stands tall against the Kansas winds, and the brick structure provides a stark contrast to the open, light interior of the building. Walking into the sanctuary, one is immediately struck by the craftsmanship of the skilled hands that created the space: marble flooring and altar are surrounded by murals inserted into the ceiling (with a proverbial nod to the Sistine Chapel). Crosses dedicated to the apostles surround the nave and bless those who look on. The tall ceilings and ornate artwork provide a worship space unparalleled by modern-day architecture. The blue background gives the feeling that the ceiling opens to Heaven as parishioners sit in pews to pray and sing.

In 2021 the church building was not complete, but the congregation needed an instrument to complement the space; something that would expand into it and give additional harmony and accompaniment to voices lifted in praise and supplication. This instrument was built and installed in the first half of 2023. The church, in its construction, creates five seconds of reverberation. Because of that, we had to scale the organ to compensate for the magnificent acoustic of the space. Even the mixtures have a say there, because the room carries the upper tones so well. Quimby is also in the process of completing and installing a smaller organ for the transept of the church.

With consideration to the demands required of the proposed instrument, we determined that the inspiration for the diapason chorus would be based on the English organbuilder, Thomas C. Lewis (1833-1915), who fashioned his work in the form of the German, Edmund Schulze (1824-1878), who built most of his instruments for English clients. These builders were renowned for their assertive and majestic chorus flue work.

In Immaculata, the splendid acoustics and the size of the space called for the use of heroic scales and voicing to achieve our intended goals.

The major flue chorus complements the chorus reed rank, which incorporates the use of French domed shallots that provide the tonal characteristics of Cavaillé-Coll, and blends to provide full, luscious tones throughout the space. The other ranks in the specification complement the two major flue choruses and provide a balanced level of dynamics.



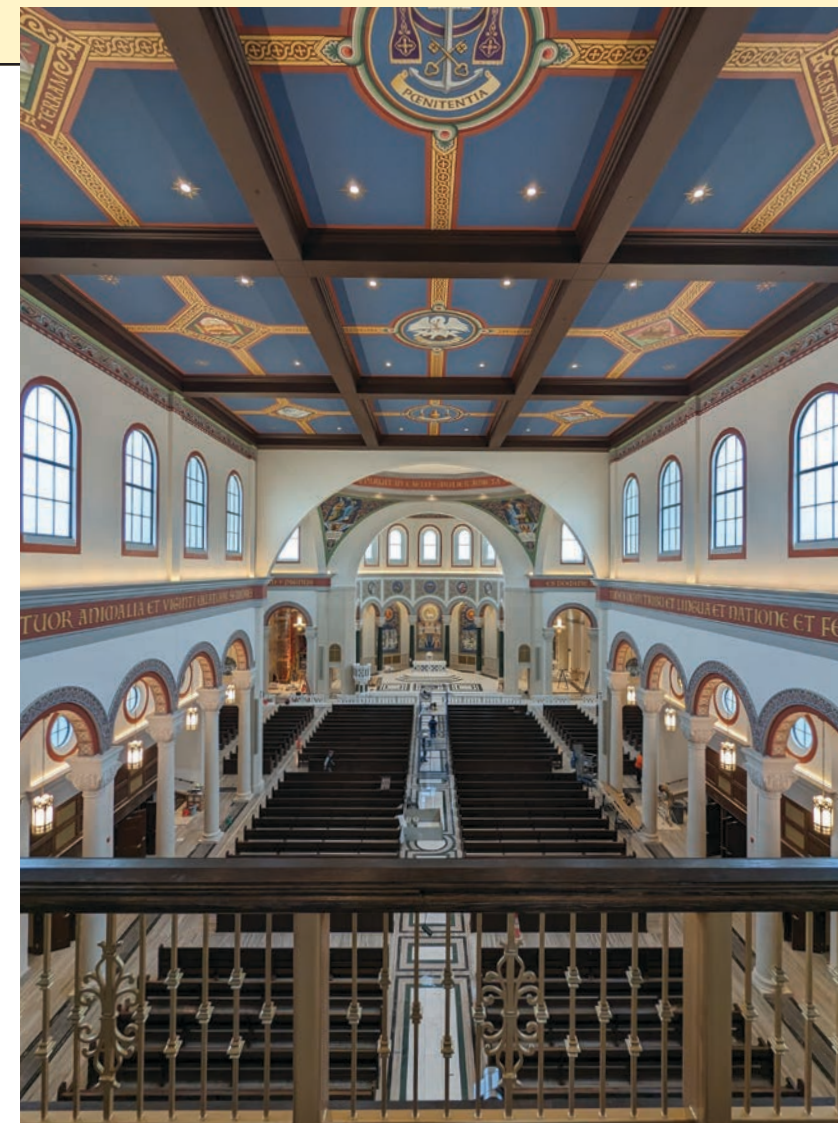
Sanctuary, Immaculata Church, Saint Marys, Kansas

The instrument installed in the north transept of Immaculata was built in 1966 by Aeolian-Skinner as their Opus 1483. The organ was secured from the University of Colorado, Boulder, by Quimby Pipe Organs in 2021. A complete rebuild and revoicing, retaining all ranks, was accomplished, incorporating the console from Aeolian-Skinner Opus 1523 from Seventy-Sixth Street Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Alabama: two manuals and pedal, four ranks, 316 pipes: 16' Rohrgedeckt (95 pipes); 8' Spitzflöte (85 pipes); 2 3/4' Nasat (61 pipes); 4' Principal (73 pipes);

Those at Quimby Pipe Organs who made contributions to the building and installation of these fine instruments are Michael Quimby, president and tonal director; Eric Johnson, head reed voicer; Joseph Nielson, and Sean Estanek, flue voicers; Brian Seever, service department manager and lead installer; Daniel Sliker, woodshop foreman and lead installer; Charles Ford, project designer; Chris



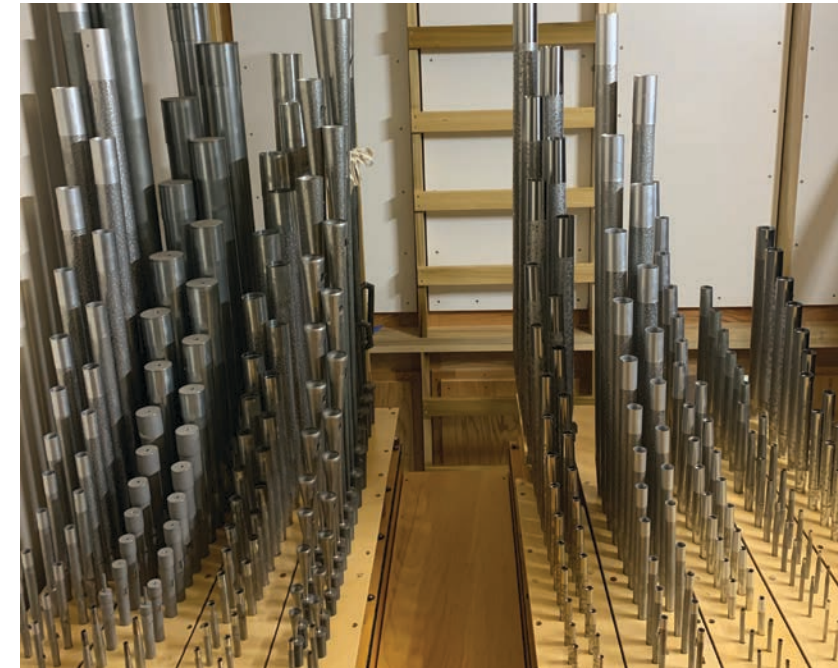
Balcony cases



View from second balcony



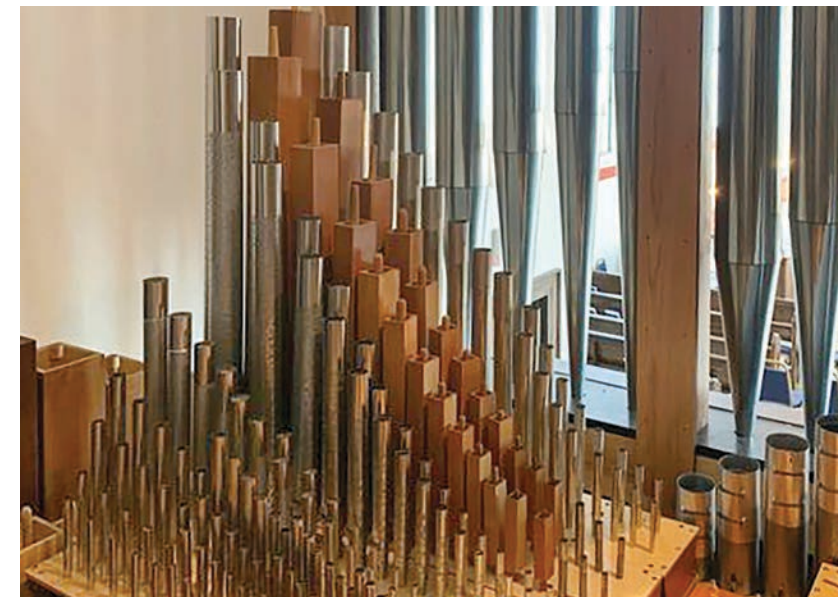
Console



Swell division



North balcony case



Great division

Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc.

Immaculata Church, Saint Marys, Kansas

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| GREAT (unenclosed) 9 ranks | |
| 16' Violone (Swell) | |
| 8' Principal | 61 pipes |
| 8' Gedeckt | 61 pipes |
| 8' Viola (Swell) | |
| 4' Octave | 61 pipes |
| 4' Hohl Flute (prepared) | |
| 2' Super Octave | 61 pipes |
| 1 1/2' Mixture IV | 244 pipes |
| 8' Trumpet | 85 pipes |
| 8' Cromorne (prepared) | |
| 4' Clarion (extension) | |
| Great to Great 16 | |
| Great Unison Off | |
| Great to Great 4 | |

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|---------------------------------|----------|
| SWELL (enclosed) 9 ranks | |
| 8' Principal (prepared) | |
| 8' Rohrlflute | 61 pipes |
| 8' Viola | 85 pipes |
| 8' Viola Celeste (TC) | 49 pipes |
| 4' Principal | 61 pipes |
| 4' Nachthorn | 61 pipes |

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|-----------------------|----------|
| 2 3/4' Nazard | 61 pipes |
| 2' Octave | 61 pipes |
| 1 3/4' Tierce | 61 pipes |
| Mixture IV (prepared) | |
| 8' Trumpet (prepared) | |
| 8' Oboe | 61 pipes |
| Tremulant | |
| Swell to Swell 16 | |
| Swell Unison Off | |
| Swell to Swell 4 | |

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| CHOIR (prepared for 8 ranks) | |
| 8' Solo Diapason (Pedal) | |
| 8' Viola (Swell) | |
| 4' Viola (Swell) | |
| 16' Contra Trumpet (Great) | |
| 8' Trumpet (Great) | |
| 8' Cromorne (prepared, Great) | |
| 4' Clarion (Great) | |
| Choir to Choir 16 | |
| Choir Unison Off | |
| Choir to Choir 4 | |

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|---|----------|
| PEDAL 2 ranks | |
| 32' Bourdon (ext 16' Bdn, 1-12 digital) | |
| 16' Principal | 73 pipes |
| 16' Violone (Swell) | |
| 16' Bourdon | 44 pipes |
| 8' Octave (extension 16' Principal) | |
| 8' Viola (Swell) | |
| 8' Bourdon (extension 16' Bourdon) | |
| 4' Super Octave (extension 16' Princ) | |
| 16' Contra Trumpet (Great) | |
| 16' Bassoon (prepared) | |
| 8' Trumpet (Great) | |
| 4' Clarion (Great) | |

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| Couplers | |
| Swell to Great 16-8-4 | |
| Swell to Choir 16-8-4 | |
| Choir to Great 16-8-4 | |
| Great to Choir 8 | |
| Choir to Choir 8-4 | |
| Swell to Pedal 8-4 | |
| Choir to Pedal 8-4 | |
| Pedal to Choir 8 | |

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| Combination Action | |
| Great divisional pistons: 1-5 | |
| Swell divisional pistons: 1-5 | |
| Choir divisional pistons: 1-5 | |
| General pistons: 1-6 thumb, 7-10 toe studs | |
| Next Piston Sequencer: 1 toe stud, 1 piston | |
| Previous Piston Sequencer: 1 toe stud, 1 piston | |
| Set piston | |
| Sforzando piston | |
| General Cancel piston | |
| Memory Level Up or Down: 2 pistons | |

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| Crescendo and Expression | |
| General Crescendo pedal | |
| Adjustable Crescendos | |
| Swell expression pedal | |

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| Reversibles | |
| Great to Pedal toe stud | |
| Sforzando toe stud | |

Playback and transposer

20 ranks, 35 stops, 1,251 pipes

Emerson, executive assistant and lead installer, and the following production and installation team members: Chirt and Aime Touch, Anthony Soun, Mahoney Soun, Bailey Tucker, Bryce Munson, Noah Lipham, Baylee Marten, Rebecca Estanek, and Tygran Gilligan, intern.
—Michael Quimby

Builder's website:
quimbypipeorgans.com/

Church's website:
www.anewimmaculata.org/

Photo credit: Michael Quimby