

## MEMORANDUM

To: Trinity Cathedral Vestry

From: Cathedral Organ Committee (ad hoc)

David Lindgren, Chair; Lexi Allen, Rick Burwell, Patricia Keast, Jean Wu; Loren Weatherly (Vestry Liaison); David Link (Canon for Music)

Date: April 18, 2014

Re: Fundraising Campaign for Organ Repairs and Replacements and Additional Stops for Antiphonal Organ

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### Summary

By this memorandum, the Cathedral Organ Committee requests Vestry permission to conduct a campaign to raise approximately \$123,000 for the purpose of (1) making major repairs and replacements to the Cathedral's pipe organ and (2) adding two ranks of pipes to the existing antiphonal division at the rear of the nave.

The campaign would be conducted using a two-phase format that is typical for such endeavors and has been followed in previous Trinity campaigns, namely (1) an initial quiet phase seeking larger gifts from identified members and friends of Trinity, based on past contributions or assumed capacity and interest, and (2) a follow-on public phase seeking gifts (assumed to be mostly smaller) from the Trinity community at large.

The quiet campaign would begin June 1, 2014 and conclude in the fall of 2014. The public campaign would then follow immediately.

### Purposes of the campaign

Trinity Cathedral's 1983 Reuter pipe organ is one of the great assets of the Cathedral. While not the largest pipe organ in Sacramento, it is known for its refined, elegant sound and has been played with appreciation by some of the world's great organists. As it has aged over the past 30 years, the organ has experienced both normal deterioration and significant damage from flooding and careless workmen, to the point that major repairs are required to ensure its continued service to the Cathedral.

In addition, we are proposing a modest two stop addition to the antiphonal organ, consisting of a small scale 8' Principal stop and a 4' Gemshorn stop. These additions would provide two distinct benefits: (1) adding a warm supportive sound from behind the congregation, which would make easier congregational singing of hymns and the liturgy, and (2) adding new colors to the tonal pallet of the instrument.

## **Estimated costs of the proposed repairs, replacements, and additions**

Repairs and replacements to existing organ:

Replace primary wind reservoir	\$ 6,000
Clean and regulate the primary reed stop (swell Trompette) and thoroughly clean the organ chamber	8,000
Install an updated computer memory system for the combination action (which allows fast pre-set stop changes)	12,000
Rebuild the engines that drive the swell and great expression boxes (moveable louvers in front of the organ chamber)	8,000
Replace the large pedal façade pipes (visible pipes)	<u>20,000</u>
Total repairs and replacements	\$ 54,000
Addition of two stops to the Antiphonal Organ (8' Principal, 4' Gemshorn)	<u>55,000</u>
Total estimated cost	\$ 109,000
Contingency (10%)	<u>11,000</u>
Total repairs, replacements, and additions	\$ 120,000
Campaign costs	<u>3,000</u>
Total estimated costs	\$ 123,000

## **Funding**

The costs of the proposed fundraising campaign will be funded from proceeds of the campaign itself. The Cathedral has already received slightly over \$10,000 for the organ's repair from parishioners concerned about the poor state of the instrument. Some of these monies will be used as initial seed money for the campaign.

## **Attachments**

The following detailed materials respecting the proposed campaign are attached:

- Attachment 1 – Detailed Summary of Proposed Repairs and Replacements
- Attachment 2 – Antiphonal Organ Proposal

Attachment 3 – General Outline of Proposed Campaign and Timeline

**Attachment 1 – Detailed Summary of Proposed Repairs and Replacements**

The problem: The primary wind reservoir was damaged in a flood, due to a burst gasket in the Cathedral furnace. The water damaged the leather and internal parts.

What it does: The primary wind reservoir regulates the airflow into the pipe organ, keeping a steady supply of air pressure at all times.

If we do nothing: The leather will continue to deteriorate and leak, causing the wind supply to be interrupted, and possibly fail.

The fix: Replace the primary reservoir. Rebuilding would cost the same as replacing, so it seems prudent to replace it.

The estimated cost: \$6,000.

The problem: The swell Trompette pipes have come out of adjustment over time, and are particularly sensitive to the dirty conditions in the organ case. The sound is uncontrolled and uneven.

What it does: The swell Trompette is the primary “reed” stop in the organ.

If we do nothing: It will continue to sound bad, and will get worse with time.

The fix: Thoroughly clean and regulate the pipes, so they sound as they did when the organ was new.

The estimated cost: (see below)

The problem: The inside of the organ chambers have thirty years of dirt and dust, pine needles from Christmas trees, and more.

What it does: House the pipes, wind supply, and controls.

If we do nothing: Dust and dirt will build up in the pipes and windchests, and cause major damage.

The fix: A thorough cleaning of the organ chamber is necessary.

The estimated cost: \$8,000 for (1) the thorough cleaning of the organ chambers and (2) the cleaning and regulation of the swell Trompette pipes.

The problem: The combination action is based on 1983 computer technology, and has started to become unreliable. Sometimes the organist will push a button, and nothing happens. In addition, there is not nearly enough memory for the needs of a busy Cathedral.

What it does: It allows the organist to make fast pre-set stop changes, when there is not time or hands available to do it manually (which is often).

If we do nothing: The system is cumbersome and difficult to use, and constantly needs to be adjusted during services and concerts. It requires a lot of “work arounds” by the organist. And reliability will become more of an issue as it continues to age.

The fix: install an updated computer memory system for the combination action.

The estimated cost: \$12,000.

The problem: The swell and great expression box engines are leaking. This is due to the aging and deterioration of the leather from which they are made. It is possible to clearly hear the leaks as the expression shades are opened and closed.

What it does: The expression engines operating the moveable louvers in the front of the organ chamber, allowing the organist make the sounds of the pipes softer or louder.

If we do nothing: The leaks will get worse... the hissing sounds will get louder... and the boxes will not open and close all the way.

The fix: Rebuild the expression box engines.

The estimated cost: \$8,000

The problem: The pedal façade pipes (i.e.-the pipes you can see in the front of the organ case) are collapsing under their own weight. They were made with a substandard quality of zinc, which is what was available to American organ builders in the early 1980's. The metal is so soft, that over time, they are losing their structural integrity. As a result, the sound is unfocused and lacks the solid bass sound for which this organ is known.

What it does: The twenty-four pedal façade “principal” pipes supply the lowest notes on the organ, the foundation on which the rest of the organ tone is built.

If we do nothing: They will continue to collapse, and the sound will get worse and worse. Repairing them would cost nearly as much as replacing them, and they'd still be made of substandard metal.

The fix: replace these pipes with new pipes which will be made of a structurally superior metal (most likely aluminum in this case).

The estimated cost: \$20,000

Total estimated cost, repairs and replacements: \$54,000

## **Attachment 2 - Antiphonal Organ Proposal**

When the Trinity Cathedral organ was originally designed in 1983, there were allowances made for an antiphonal “Processional” organ to be installed at the North end of the Cathedral at a future date. Upon the death of the former Dean of the Cathedral, the Very Reverend Charles Howard Perry, one of the stops in that proposal, the en-chamade “Imperial Trumpet”, was installed in his memory.

There has been quite a bit of talk about the possibility of completing this antiphonal division, in tandem with the needed organ overhaul. After consulting with experts in the field, most notably Mr. Jack Bethards of Schoenstein & Company Pipe Organs (Benicia, CA), we are proposing a modest two stop addition at the North end of the Cathedral. This would consist of a small scale 8' Principal stop, and a 4' Gemshorn. Because the blowers and electrical connections are already in place, only a minimal amount of preparatory work would be required for the installation.

These additions would provide two distinct benefits:

- Adding a warm supportive sound from behind the congregation, which would make it easier for the people to sing the hymns and liturgy.
- Adding new colors to the tonal pallet of the instrument.

The estimated cost to make this addition to the organ is \$55,000.

### **Attachment 3 – General Outline of Proposed Campaign and Timeline**

The Committee is still working out the details of the proposed campaign, and in doing so will consult with the Cathedral's leadership. The Committee's intent, however, is to give every member and friend of Trinity the opportunity to participate in the renovation and enhancement of the Cathedral's pipe organ.

The Committee's current thoughts regarding the campaign are as follows.

The campaign would consist of two phases. The first phase would be a "quiet campaign" directed towards people who are believed might have an interest in making a large gifts to the project. The second phase would be more public and directed to all other members and friends of Trinity Cathedral. During both phases, however, there would be some publicity regarding the pipe organ and the need to renovate and enhance it.

The committee has not developed a detailed or precise schedule for the entire campaign. However, the committee proposes that the campaign commence on June 1, with an invitational reception in the rear of the Nave at which the case for the campaign would be vividly demonstrated by David Link and the organ itself. The first, quiet phase of the campaign would follow and continue through Labor Day and beyond. The second phase would follow completion of the first phase, probably in later 2014 or early 2015. The entire campaign would end with a grand Cathedral-wide celebration featuring a recital by David Link on the renovated and enhanced instrument.

The campaign would have several publicity elements, likely including some "teasers" and more detailed follow-on articles in the Cross regarding the organ and the need to renovate and enhance it. The campaign would also have both donor-recognition and matching-fund components.