

Minutes -- Chapel Organ Committee

Meeting 2 - June 7, 1986, 9 a.m.

1. Present: J. Tiefel, J. Manthey, D. Valleskey, and Edward Meyer of DMLC.
2. Purpose: To interview Prof. Meyer as a prospective organ consultant.
3. Meeting began with a review of the printed Recommendations of the Faculty to the Board of Control Concerning the Installation of a Pipe Organ in the Seminary Chapel.
4. Prof. Meyer told of his background
 - a. Education: public elementary and high school
DMLC
 - b. Service: St. Philips, Milwaukee
St. John's, Jefferson, where involved with
installation of a Cassavant pipe organ
1970 to DMLC
 - c. Training and experience
 - 1) Took two courses taught by Paul Bunjes; was also involved with Bunjes as he supervised the installation of the organ at Jefferson
 - 2) Has worked with 24 pipe organ installations or rebuilding projects
 - 3) For past 10 years has has about 6 organs in various stages of completion at all times
5. Fee: Considers it part of his ministry and therefore charges no fee except for expenses and a gratuity
6. Went briefly through Meyer's booklet, "Planning for a Successful Pipe Organ Installation" (copy attached)
7. Discussed a tracker action organ (which Meyer recommends for the Seminary)
 - a. Value of
 - 1) its simplicity and reliability (less maintenance)
 - 2) musically, the organist works directly with the instrument; theoretically the organist can control the way the organ speaks by the way he presses down on the keys
 - 3) low wind pressure, 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 pounds, needed, which makes for a more natural tone
 - b. Miscellaneous questions
 - 1) More difficult to play? No
 - 2) Can you have pistons? Yes
 - 3) 56 or 61 notes? Tracker is normally 56 notes, which Meyer considers to be sufficient. You pay extra for five more pipes if you want 61 notes
 - 4) Black keys or white keys? Generally, black keys, a distinctive mark of the tracker organ
 - 5) Meyer tracker installations? Brillion, Ft. Atkinson, New Ulm (St. Paul's), Waterloo
8. Cost: Minimum of \$100,000 (a 15 stop organ would cost around \$130,000); Meyer noted that we shouldn't expect a reduced cost just because it is a seminary installation
9. Preliminary suggestions regarding the chapel organ specifically

- a. Placement: In front of windows in rear, i.e., center of back wall, leaving about 18" of space between the organ and the wall; freestanding with pipes encased
- b. Chapel's acoustics: Meyer sees it as a "fine facility" for an organ
- c. Size: 12 to 16 or 18 stops, such as, for the sake of example:
 - 1) Nine basic stops:
 - Great: 8' Principal; 4' Octave; 3 rank mixture
 - Swell: 8' Gedackt; 4' Non-principal; 2' Principle
 - Pedal: 16' Sub-bass; 8'; 4'
 - 2) Additional stops: 8' Flute; 8' Trumpet; 2' Flute; 2 2/3; 1 3/5; 16' Reed for pedal
- 10. Sampling of installations: North Trinity, Milwaukee; Algoma (Schantz); Wisconsin Rapids; Cochrane; E. Mequon; Brillion (Dobson); Johnson, MN; Watertown, SD; Ft. Atkinson; Torrance, CA; St. Paul's, New Ulm; Trinity, Neenah (Zimmer tracker)
- 11. Steps to take, according to Meyer:
 - a. Engage a consultant
 - b. Check out organs from various builders
 - c. Select builder
 - d. Could be ready to sign contract with a builder by Spring 1987
 - e. Installation during 1988-89 school year
 - f. Meyer would
 - 1) work with builder during construction
 - 2) be on site at the Seminary for 2-3 days when organ is being installed
 - 3) be here to check out finished product

D. Valleskey