

# THE ORGANS OF ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL



\$3.00

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL  
PERTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA



St George's Cathedral is one of the major music venues of Perth, and the musical centre of the Diocese. As well as vitally supporting the choral music and enhancing the liturgical worship at Sunday services, the organs add immeasurable value to the Cathedral's highly successful Concert Series. This brochure sets out the history and specifications of the organs of St George's Cathedral.



The Walker Organ, now replaced

The first pipe organ was installed in St George's Church in 1875, and reinstalled when the present cathedral opened in 1888.

Built by William Hill and Son, London, whose clients included York Minster, King's College Cambridge and St Andrew's Cathedral in Sydney, the Perth organ was of more modest proportions than these.

It had 2 manuals and pedal, 15 speaking stops, 3 couplers and a tremulant. It was rebuilt and enlarged by the South Australian builder J E Dodd in 1903, and rebuilt again 25 years later, when the console was moved and some ranks were completed.

In 1958/59 The English company J W Walker & Sons rebuilt and enlarged the organ again, requiring a new purpose-built platform in the south transept. The choir organ and console remained in the bell tower gallery position of the original Hill organ.

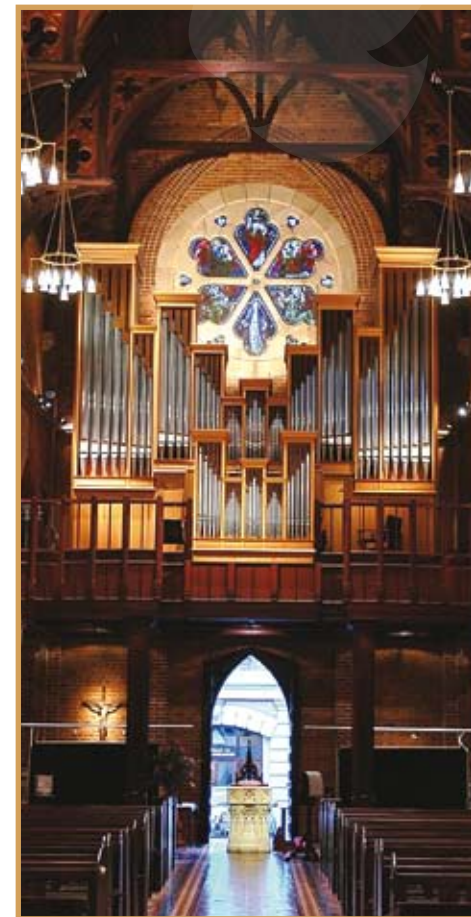
The rebuilt organ was the largest in Western Australia, with 3 manuals, 57 speaking stops and electro-pneumatic action.

In 1993, the Walker organ was replaced by an instrument of totally different style, built and installed in a new gallery at the west end by the Melbourne builder, Knud Smenge.

The new organ was the largest mechanical-action instrument to be installed in Western Australia since the Ronald Sharp Concert Hall Organ of 1974. The casework is made of Tasmanian Oak, and the front pipes are of burnished tin. The organ has 4 divisions, 46 speaking stops and 3446 pipes. There are plans to install a 32' reed and a *trompette en chamade*.

In 2008/09 the Cathedral Chapter commissioned the South Island Organ Company of New Zealand to attend to some tonal refinements on the West organ which were considered long overdue.

The chorus reed resonators (8 stops) were lengthened to provide a greater degree of refinement to the sound, a more solid fundamental tone and more stability in tuning. The other reeds (3 stops) were cleaned and regulated.



The Great West Organ, installed in 1993, has recently been refurbished

Cleaning and tonal finishing was performed to the flue stops of the organ for greater cohesion and balance.

## SPECIFICATION – WEST GALLERY ORGAN

### *Great*

Pommer 16'  
Rohrflute 8'  
Principal 8'  
Octave 4'  
Flute Harm. 4'  
Cornett III  
Octave 2'  
Mixture VI-VIII 2'  
Cymbel 11 1'  
Trompet 8'  
Clarion 4'

### *Pedal*

Unterzatz 32'  
Subbass 16'  
Gedackt 8'  
Principal 16'  
Octave 8'  
Choralbass 4'  
Rauschquint V 2 2/3'  
Bombarde 16'  
Trompet 8'  
Zinka 4'  
Clarion 4'

### *Swell*

Bordun 16'  
Gedackt 8'  
Salicional 8'  
Voix Celeste 8'  
Principal 4'  
Spitzflute 4'  
Nasard 2 2/3  
Waldflute 2'  
Terz I 3/5  
Mixture VIII/ 1 1/3'  
Trompet 16'  
Trompet Harm. 8'  
Oboe 8'  
Clarion 4'

### *Positive*

Gedackt 8'  
Spitzgamba 8'  
Principal 4'  
Kobbelflute 4'  
Sesquialtera II 2 2/3'  
Octave 2'  
Gemshorn 2'  
Nasat 1- 1/3'  
Scharf IV 1'  
Vox Humana 8'  
Krumhorn 8'



The West Organ console

### *Couplers*

Positive-Great; Swell-Great; Swell-Positive;  
Positive-Pedal; Swell-Pedal; Great-Pedal.

Optional electric coupling action to all  
manual couplers (added 2006)

### *Tremulants*

Great, Swell and Positive

### *Action*

Mechanical action with electric stop action.

### *Combinations*

Solid state giving 8 pistons and cancel  
on each manual and pedal, also provides  
16 general pistons on each of 40  
memory levels.

### *Compass*

C - a''' manuals; 58 notes C - f' pedals;  
30 notes

### *Wind Pressures*

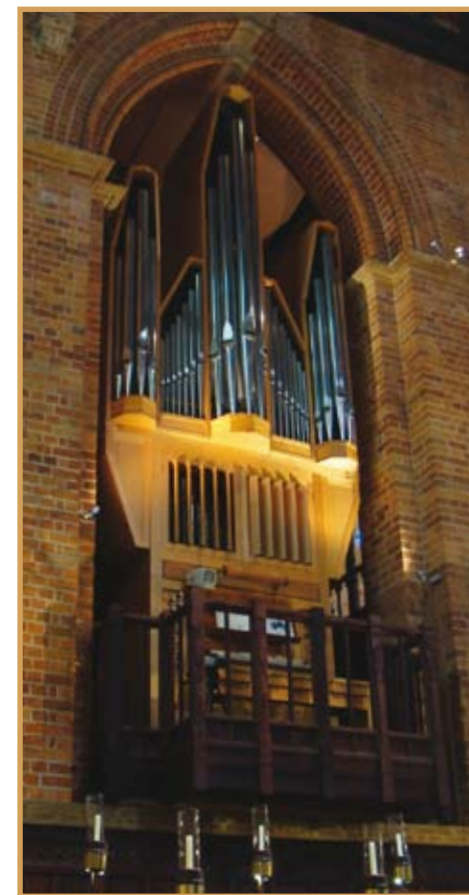
Great 65mm Swell 70mm Positive 58mm  
Pedal 65/70mm

The addition of the chancel organ,  
designed especially to accompany  
the Cathedral Choir, completed the  
present installation.

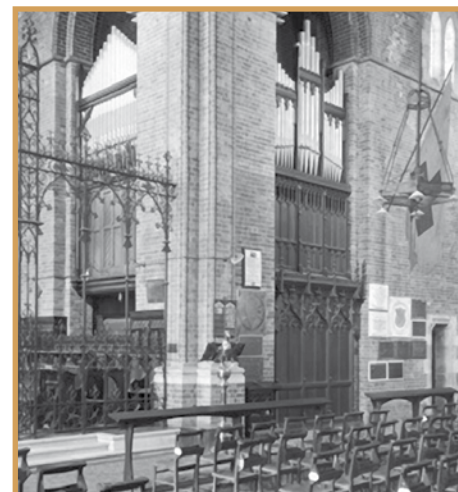
This sits under the tower, occupying  
the place of the original Hill Organ.  
Like the West Organ, the new Chancel  
Organ was also built by Knud Smenge.  
It has 2 manuals and 18 speaking stops.

The West Gallery and Chancel Organs  
can be played from a remote master  
console with audio feed system to  
enable organists playing from the  
console to hear the organs.

A multi-camera video system enables  
organists to see strategic parts of the  
cathedral from any of the consoles.



The Chancel Organ,  
designed to accompany the Choir



The original Hill Organ  
Photo: State Library of WA

## SPECIFICATION – CHANCEL ORGAN

### *Great*

Principal 8'  
Rohrflute 8'  
Salicional 8'  
Octave 4'  
Flute Harmonique 4'  
Waldflute 2'  
Mixture V 2'  
Trompet

### *Pedal*

Subbas 16'  
Principal 8' (added 2007)  
Gedackt 8'  
Koralbas 4'  
Fagot 16'

### *Swell*

Gedackt 8'  
Koppelflute 4'  
Principal 2'  
Nasat 1-1 /3'  
Schalmay 8'

### *Couplers*

Swell-Great; Swell-Pedal;  
Swell 4' - Ped;  
Great-Ped

### *Tremulants*

Great and Swell

### *Action*

Mechanical action with  
electric stop action.

### *Combinations*

Solid State giving 16 general  
pistons and cancel on each  
manual and pedal: also provides  
5 general pistons on each of  
40 memory levels.

### *Compass*

C - a''' manuals; 58 notes  
C - f' pedals; 30 notes



Organists can play the West or Chancel  
Organs from the master console

The cathedral also has a single-manual chamber organ, which can be moved where required and used to accompany choral and orchestral works.

When not in use, this organ is usually kept in the Soldiers' Chapel and is sometimes loaned to other venues. It has 4 speaking stops, no pedals, and a transposer allowing it to be pitched at either standard pitch of A440 or at A415 for authentic performance of early music. It was built by Knud Smenge in 1987.

## SPECIFICATION – CHAMBER ORGAN



Gedackt 8'  
Rohrflute 4'  
Principal 2'  
Mixture II 1'

*Compass*  
C - f''

The Chamber Organ can be moved  
to suit requirements

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*We are grateful to the Organ Historical Trust of Australia, and to  
Patrick Elms for information provided in this leaflet.*

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