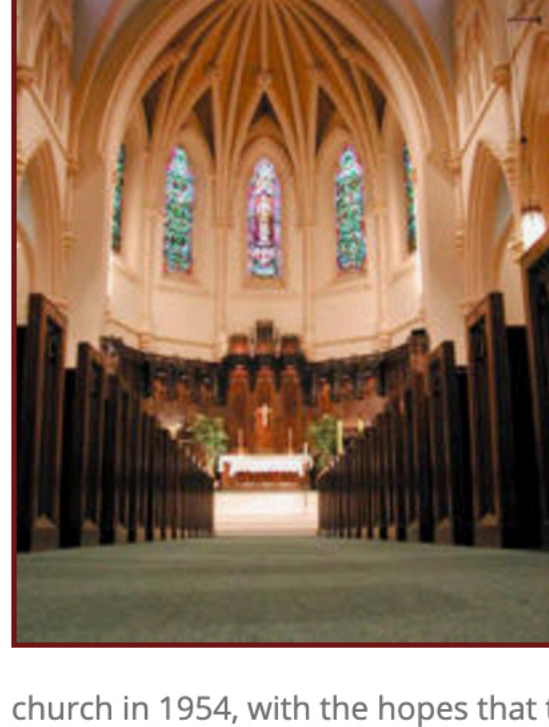


# Asylum Hill Congregational Church

## BLISS MEMORIAL PIPE ORGAN

Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford, CT  
*Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company, Boston, MA, 1961*  
*Austin Organs, Inc., Hartford, CT, 2005 (new four-manual Skinner-style console)*  
*Messrs. Czetusniak et Dugal, Inc., Northampton, MA, 2005 (New pipe additions and tonal revisions)*  
*Walker Technical Company, Zionsville, PA, 2005 (Digital stops)*  
 Four manuals – 71 ranks – 4, 211 pipes

<http://www.cccathedral.org/choir.html>



Asylum Hill Congregational Church was designed by architect Patrick C. Keely, built in 1865 and dedicated in 1866. Neo-gothic in design, it is made out of Portland brownstone. One of its most famous parishioners was Samuel Clemens, popularly known as "Mark Twain". Today the congregation boasts nearly 2,000 members led by Senior Minister Gary Miller and a comprehensive music and arts program directed by Steven Mitchell and Charles Miller. There have been three pipe organs in Asylum Hill Congregational Church. The Hook and Hastings firm installed the first in 1871. Contrary to the architect's original plans, the Hook and Hastings organ was placed in the apse of the church behind the pulpit. In 1910, the church was remodeled into its present gothic interior and a rear choir gallery was built according to Keely's plans. Ernest M. Skinner built a four manual and pedal organ of some 50 ranks of pipes, which included a 32' Bourdon, English horn, Tuba mirabilis and one of his new Erzähler stops. An organ builder in Kentucky currently owns the elegantly carved draw knob console from that organ. In the early 1950's the console was showing signs of severe mechanical failure and the church found it necessary to replace it. The Austin Organ Company built a new console for the

church in 1954, with the hopes that the company would soon thereafter rebuild the rest of the aging instrument. However, upon the arrival of Alfred Russell as director of music in 1956, a contract to replace the severely failing E. M. Skinner went not to the Austin firm but to the famous Aeolian-Skinner Company of Boston, MA and in January 1962 the present organ was dedicated with a performance of organ concerti and Maurice Durufle's "Requiem". Joseph Whiteford designed the 1962 Aeolian-Skinner in a then-fashionable neo-Baroque style which includes a Ruck-positiv division on the balcony rail. Its 71 ranks are spread over four manuals and pedal with the 32' Bourdon being placed directly next to the choir singers in the balcony. From 2003-2005, as part of the church's capital campaign and building addition, the organ will undergo major renovation, some judicious re-voicing and expansion. Along with a new state-of-the-art four manual console the organ will receive several new ranks of pipes including a Trompette en Chamade.

### **GREAT (Manual II; Unenclosed)**

16'	Diapason	61 Notes (Walker Digital)
16'	Quintaten	12 Pipes
8'	Montre	61 Pipes
8'	Bourdon	61 Pipes
8'	Quintaten	61 Pipes
8'	Erzähler	61 Pipes
4'	Octave	61 Pipes
4'	Flûte Harmonique	61 Pipes
2 2/3'	Quinte	61 Pipes
2'	Super Octave	61 Pipes
Mixture IV-V		269 Pipes
Fourniture IV		244 Pipes
8'	Trompette Harmonique	61 notes (Solo)
Herald Trumpet		61 notes (solo)
Chimes		
Great 16'		
Great Unison Off		
Great 4'		
MIDI on Great		
(Five blank drawknobs)		

### **SWELL (Manual III; Enclosed & Expressive)**

16'	Flûte Conique	12 Pipes
8'	Diapason	68 Pipes
8'	Gedackt	68 Pipes
8'	Viole de Gambe	68 Pipes
8'	Viole Veleste	68 Pipes
8'	Flauto Dolce	68 Pipes
8'	Flute Celeste	61 Pipes
4'	Prestant	68 Pipes
4'	Rohrflöte	68 Pipes
2'	Octavin	61 Pipes
	Plein Jeu III	183 Pipes
	Cymbale III	183 Pipes
16'	Bombarde	12 Pipes
8'	Trompette	68 Pipes
8'	Bombarde	68 Pipes
8'	Voix Humaine	68 Pipes
4'	Clarion	68 Pipes
Tremulant		
Swell 16'		
Swell Unison Off		
Swell 4'		
MIDI on Swell		
Cymbelstern		
(One Blank Draw Knob)		

### **CHOIR (Manual I; Enclosed & Expressive)**

8'	Viola Pomposa	68 Pipes
8'	Viola Celeste	68 Pipes
8'	Gemshorn	68 Pipes
8'	Gemshorn Celeste	68 Pipes
8'	Cor de Nuit	68 Pipes
4'	Principal	68 Pipes
4'	Koppelflöte	68 Pipes
2 2/3'	Nazard	54 Pipes
2'	Blockflöte	61 Pipes
1 3/5'	Tierce	54 Pipes
1'	Siffelöte	49 Pipes
Mixture III		183 Pipes
16'	Fagotto	68 Pipes
8'	Corno di Bassetto	68 Pipes
8'	Trompette Harmonique	61 Notes (Solo)
8'	Herald Trumpet	61 Notes (Solo)
Tremulant		
Harp		
Choir 16'		
Choir Unison Off		
Choir 4'		
MIDI on Choir		
(Two Blank Draw Knobs)		

### **SOLO (Manual I; Unenclosed)**

8'	Trompette Harmonique	73 Pipes
8'	Herald Trumpet	73 Pipes
Chimes		
Harp		
Solo 16'		
Solo Unison Off		
Solo 4'		
MIDI on Solo		
(Six Blank Draw Knobs)		

### **POSITIV (Manual I; Unenclosed)**

8'	Holz Gedackt	56 Pipes
4'	Spillflöte	56 Pipes
2'	Lieblich Prinzipal	56 Pipes
1 1/3'	Larigot	44 Pipes
1'	Oktav	44 Pipes
Jeu de Clochette II		112 Pipes
8'	Krummhorn	56 Pipes
Tremulant		
Positiv 16'		
Positiv Unison Off		
Positiv 4'		
(One Blank Draw Knob)		

### **PORTATIVE (Prepared Division)**

12 Blank Knobs. This is a future project that will be a self-contained, fully independent unit on a moveable platform to be located in the front of the sanctuary.

### **PEDAL**

32'	Open Wood	32 Notes (Walker Digital)
32'	Contra Bourdon	12 Pipes
32'	Lieblich Gedackt	32 Notes (Walker Digital)
16'	Principal	32 Pipes
16'	Bourdon	32 Pipes
16'	Quintaten	(Great)
16'	Flute Conique	(Swell)
16'	Lieblichflöte	12 Pipes (ext. Choir)
8'	Principal	32 Pipes
8'	Bourdon	12 Pipes
8'	Erzähler	(Great)
8'	Gedackt	(Swell)
8'	Quintaten	(Great)
4'	Choral Bass	32 Pipes
4'	Koppelflöte	(Choir)
2'	Blockflöte	(Choir)
Mixture IV		128 Pipes
Kontra Posuane		32 Notes (Walker Digital)
Contra Bombarde		12 Pipes
16'	Posaune	32 Pipes
16'	Bombarde	(Swell)
8'	Posuane	12 Pipes
8'	Trompette Harmonique	(Solo)
8'	Herald Trumpet	(Solo)
4'	Klarine	12 Pipes
4'	Corno di Bassetto	12 Notes
Chimes		
MIDI on Pedal		

### **COUPLERS**

Great to Pedal 8'	Pedal Divide
Great to Pedal 4'	Choir to Swell 16'
Swell to Pedal 8'	Choir to Swell 8'
Swell to Pedal 4'	Choir to Swell 4'
Choir to Pedal 8'	Positiv to Swell 16'
Choir to Pedal 4'	Positiv to Swell 8'
Solo to Pedal 8'	Positiv to Swell 4'
Solo to Pedal 4'	Swell to Choir 16'
Positiv to Pedal 8'	Swell to Choir 8'
Positiv to Pedal 4'	Swell to Choir 4'
Swell to Great 16'	Solo to Choir 16'
Swell to Great 8'	Solo to Choir 8'
Swell to Great 4'	Solo to Choir 4'
Choir to Great 16'	Great to Solo 16'
Choir to Great 8'	Great to Solo 8'
Choir to Great 4'	Great to Solo 4'
Solo to Great 16'	Swell to Solo 16'
Solo to Great 8'	Swell to Solo 8'
Solo to Great 4'	Swell to Solo 4'
Positiv to Great 16'	Choir to Solo 16'
Positiv to Great 8'	Choir to Solo 8'
Positiv to Great 4'	Choir to Solo 4'
Pedal to Great 8'	Positiv to Solo 16'
Tremulants Off	Positiv to Solo 8'
All Swells to Swell	Positiv to Solo 4'
Great/Choir Transfer	Portative on Solo

### **COMBINATION ACTION (128 levels – Solid State Organ Systems, Inc.)**

General Pistons	1-16 (Thumb & Toe)
Great Pistons	1-8 (Thumb)
Swell Pistons	1-8 (Thumb)
Choir Pistons	1-8 (Thumb)
Solo Pistons	1-8 (Thumb)
Positiv Pistons	1-4 (Thumb)
Portative Pistons	1-4 (Thumb)
Pedal Pistons	1-8 (Thumb & Toe)

### **REVERSIBLES**

Great to Pedal reversible (thumb & toe)
Swell to Pedal reversible (thumb & toe)
Choir to Pedal reversible (thumb & toe)
Solo to Pedal reversible (thumb & toe)
Positiv to Pedal reversible (thumb & toe)
Swell to Great 8' reversible (thumb)
Choir to Great 8' reversible (thumb)
Solo to Great 8' reversible (thumb)
Swell to Choir 8' (thumb)
All Swells to Swell reversible (thumb, with indicator light)
Tremulants Off reversible (toe)
Cymbelstern (toe)
32' Open Wood reversible (toe)
32' Lieblich Gedackt reversible (toe)
32' Contra Bourdon reversible (toe)
32' Kontra Posaune reversible (toe)
32' Contre Bombarde reversible (toe)
Tutti I reversible (thumb & toe, with indicator light)
Tutti II reversible (thumb & toe, with indicator light)