

Exceptional Uses

St. Michael's has already incorporated the organ into its exceptional offerings of daily offices and masses, all of which are sung. To hear a full quire of priests who sing several times each day feels otherworldly, especially when one recalls that they're just an hour from Hollywood. Hearing that singing in a cathedral acoustic, accompanied by the choir organ, with musical commentary from the tribune organ throughout, is astounding.

The tribune organ was dedicated in what the abbey hopes is the first of many recitals by acclaimed artists. Paul Jacobs played a varied program on December 2, 2023, reminding us how versatile a successful organ can be, no matter its accent.

We hope the tribune organ, coupled with the choir organ, singing, mosaics, windows—all that makes the abbey special—will inspire the Fathers and visitors for decades to come. It was a privilege to contribute to an extraordinary institution's offerings and a joy to build an organ for such an exceptionally beautiful place.

Many people helped bring this project to fruition, including the Janet Curci Family Foundation, Fr. Jerome Molokie, Fr. Justin Ramos, Fr. Gregory Dick, Kevin Shaffer (director of construction), Gabriel Ferrucci (business advisor), Enzo Selvaggi (case design advisor), and the Schoenstein & Co. staff:

Jack Bethards
Louis Patterson
Bryan Dunnewald
David Anderson
Erik Asprey
Dean Belgarde
Drue Berti
Ann Bharoocha
Glen Brasel
Timothy Fink
Christopher Hansford
William Holt
Valentin Ivanov
Yolanda Mascote
Humberto Palma
Patricia Schneringer

Bryan Dunnewald is the tonal director of Schoenstein & Co.

Photography: Louis Patterson

St. Michael's Abbey • Silverado, California

Schoenstein & Co. • Benicia, California

Three-manual and pedal tribune organ • Opus 183
31 voices, 34 ranks, electric-pneumatic action

I. GRAND-ORGUE

| | PIPES |
|--------------------|-------|
| 16 Bourdon | 12 |
| 8 Montre | 61 |
| 8 Flûte harmonique | 61 |
| 8 Gambe | 61 |
| 8 Bourdon | 61 |
| 4 Prestant | 61 |
| 4 Flûte douce | 61 |
| 2 Doublette | 61 |
| 1½ Fourniture IV | 244 |
| 8 Trompette | 61 |
| 4 Clairon | 61 |
| Grand-Orgue 16 | |

II. POSITIF EXPRESSIF

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| 8 Salicional | 61 |
| 8 Unda-Maris (TC) | 49 |
| 8 Cor de nuit | 61 |
| 4 Flûte | 61 |
| 2½ Nazard | 61 |
| 2 Flageolet | 61 |
| 1½ Tierce | 54 |
| 16 Basson | 61 |
| 8 Trompette | 61 |
| 8 Clarinette | 61 |
| Trémolo | |
| Positif 16 | |

III. RÉCIT EXPRESSIF

| | PIPES |
|---------------------|-------|
| 8 Flûte traversière | 61 |
| 8 Viole de gambe | 61 |
| 8 Voix céleste | 61 |
| 4 Flûte octaviante | 61 |
| 2 Octavin | 61 |
| 8 Trompette | 61 |
| 8 Basson-hautbois | 61 |
| 8 Voix humaine | 61 |
| Trémolo | |
| Récit 16, 4 | |

PÉDALE

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 32 Soubasse* | 12 |
| 16 Contrebasse | 32 |
| 16 Soubasse | 32 |
| 16 Bourdon (G.O.) | |
| 8 Flûte (G.O.) | |
| 8 Salicional (Pos.) | |
| 8 Bourdon (G.O.) | |
| 4 Flûte (G.O.) | |
| 32 Bombarde | 32 |
| 16 Bombarde | 12 |
| 8 Bombarde | 12 |

* Quint-length pipes C–F-sharp

Couplers

| |
|----------------------------|
| Grand-Orgue/Pédale |
| Positif/Pédale |
| Récit/Pédale 8, 4 |
| Positif/Grand-Orgue 16, 8 |
| Récit/Grand-Orgue 16, 8, 4 |
| Récit/Positif 8, 4 |

Console

1. French-style open-drawknob console with bench and music rack all of hardwood, designed and finished to complement the organ case
2. Bone- and ebony-covered keys with articulated touch
3. Polished ebony drawknobs on brass shanks
4. Solid-state capture combination action: 5,000 memories—assignable and lockable, with backup and level indicator
- 14 general pistons and toe studs (eight left, six right)

- Six pistons each for Grand-Orgue, Positif, and Récit Set piston
- General Cancel piston
- Two memory-level pistons
- Programmable piston range for each memory folder
5. Reversible piston and toe levers for Grand-Orgue to Pédale, Positif to Pédale, and Récit to Pédale
6. Two balanced expression pedals of brass
7. Piston sequencer, in European mode, controlled by (+) toe stud and piston, and (–) piston. Indicator showing piston employed.
8. Record/playback system
9. Pedal light, coupler rail light, and music light