



Ernest M. Skinner, Organ Builder

It is somehow appropriate that Ernest M. Skinner was born in a town that shares its name with an organ reed stop, for this builder, one of America's greatest, would become famous for the glorious reeds in his instruments.

Born in Clarion, Pennsylvania in 1866, Skinner's grade school education was followed by an apprenticeship with Massachusetts organ builder George Ryder. In 1893, he joined the Hutchings

organ firm, and was involved with several important installations, including Boston Symphony Hall and the Woolsey Hall organ at Yale University, an instrument Skinner would rebuild in 1929.

Skinner formed his own company in 1905, and became immediately successful. An excellent salesman, Skinner also had a genuinely creative mind that could simultaneously apply itself to both mechanical improvements and tonal innovations.

Ernest Skinner loved orchestra and band music. He thought of the pipe organ in orchestral terms, and many of his best sounds imitate those of the orchestra. His organs were beautifully crafted, exquisitely voiced, and were known for their musical elegance.

He lived until 1960, long enough to see the sounds he cherished eclipsed by a style of organ that he personally found to be harsh and inartistic. Had he lived a few decades longer, he would have witnessed the rediscovery of his work, and have seen that today his great organs are cherished by worshippers and musicians alike.

Reynolds Associates, Inc. Pipe Organ Builders and Conservators

The firm of Reynolds Associates started as a senior honors project at Ball State University in 1975, with the renovation of a municipal organ in Marion, IN. Thad Reynolds, then a student of Kirby Koriath, renovated that organ for the princely sum of \$28. Since then, his fees have increased somewhat.

Today, Reynolds Associates, Inc., is a family corporation based in Marion, IN, and led by Thad Reynolds and his son, David. The firm specializes in new organs, renovation and restoration, and pipe organ service to customers in Indiana and Kentucky.

Thad and David are both members of the American Institute of Organbuilders.

You can learn more about Reynolds Associates and their work at the company's website: www.reynoldsorgans.com.

The High Street Organ E. M. Skinner Opus 803



Shown here before the 2009 console renovation, the High Street organ has always been a favorite of organists of all ages.

In 1929, following a careful search by Homer Walk, High Street Methodist Episcopal Church signed an agreement with the E. M. Skinner Organ Company of Boston to build a four-manual pipe organ with 40 ranks (sets) of pipes. The cost of the new instrument was \$25,000, a very large sum at the time for an organ of this size. The organ was installed the following year, and was ready in time for the church dedication in October, 1930. The inaugural concert was played by Chandler Goldthwaite, one of the country's most prominent concert organists.

Tonally, the organ was designed with rich, warm voices, many imitative of orchestral sounds. The instrument had a more complete diapason ensemble than was often seen at the time, including mixtures in both the Great and Swell divisions.

The High Street organ was designed at a time when the influence of Ernest Skinner had reached its high-water mark, and was gradually yielding to the tonal ideals imported to America in the person of G. Donald Harrison. It was a battle Skinner would ultimately lose, resulting in his ouster from the company he had founded and that bore his name.

For over four decades, the High Street organ remained virtually unchanged. Although organs of this type had, for a time, fallen out of favor with many "experts," nobody could dispute the high quality and magnificence of the old organ, despite a sound that was darker and thicker than was in fashion at the time. At least one attempt was made to brighten the sound of the organ, when some revoicing was done in about 1974.

Everything changed on January 27, 1978, when a gas explosion nearly ruined both the building and the Skinner organ. Two years later, the organ was finally reassembled, although much altered from the original. Sadly, many of the original pipes had been lost in the process.

In a two-phase process in 2009 and 2014-15, Reynolds Associates rebuilt the organ. The console was completely refurbished, and new tonal resources were added to the instrument. To have attempted a "restoration" of the original organ would have been futile, and perhaps undesirable. Instead, the goal was to expand and develop the organ in sympathy with its past. The High Street organ is one of the largest pipe organs in Central Indiana, and one of a very few truly Romantic instruments, with its rich tonal palette and its magnificent soul-filling voice. The organ's crowning glory is the beautiful new *Trompette en Chamade*, hand made of polished copper, and mounted horizontally on the rear wall of the sanctuary.

E. M. Skinner Organ Co.
Opus 803 (1930) 4 Manuals/40 Ranks

GREAT ORGAN	511 pipes
8' First Diapason	73 pipes
8' Second Diapason	73 pipes
8' Flute Harmonique	73 pipes
4' Octave	73 pipes
4' Flute	73 pipes
II Grave Mixture	146 pipes

SWELL ORGAN	
8' Open Diapason	73 pipes
8' Rohr Flute	73 pipes
8' Voix Celeste II	145 pipes
8' Flauto Dolce	73 pipes
8' Flute Celeste	61 pipes
4' Octave	73 pipes
4' Flute Triangulaire	73 pipes
III Mixture	183 pipes
16' Waldhorn	73 pipes
8' Trumpet	73 pipes
8' Oboe	73 pipes
8' Vox Humana	73 pipes
4' Clarion	73 pipes
Tremolo	

CHOIR ORGAN	
16' Gamba	73 pipes
8' Concert Flute	73 pipes
8' Dulciana	73 pipes
8' Unda Maris	61 pipes
4' Flute d'Amour	73 pipes
8' Clarinet	73 pipes
8' French Horn	73 pipes
8' English Horn	73 pipes
Tremolo	
Harp	
Celesta	

ANTI-PHONAL & ECHO ORGAN	
8' Open Diapason	73 pipes
8' Claribel Flute	73 pipes
8' Aeoline	73 pipes
8' Fern Flute	73 pipes
4' Flauto Traverso	73 pipes
8' Trumpet	73 pipes
8' Vox Humana	73 pipes
Tremolo	
Cathedral Chimes	

PEDAL ORGAN

16' Open Diapason	32 pipes
16' Bourdon	32 pipes
16' Gamba	(Choir)
8' Octave	12 pipes
8' Gedeckt	12 pipes
16' Waldhorn	(Swell)

Reynolds Associates, Inc.
2009/2015 4 Manuals/70 Ranks
4,199 pipes

GREAT ORGAN

16' Violone	49 pipes ^{h&h}
8' Major Diapason	61 pipes ^{r/a}
8' Principal Diapason	61 pipes ^{r/a}
8' Viola Pomposa	49 pipes ^{vintage}
8' Viola Celeste	49 pipes ^{vintage}
8' Doppelflute	61 pipes ^{h/h}
8' Harmonic Flute	61 pipes ^{vintage}
4' Octave	61 pipes ^{r/a}
4' Traverse Flute	61 pipes ^{ems}
2 2/3' Twelfth	61 pipes ^{vintage}
2' Super Octave	61 pipes ^{r/a}
1 3/5' Seventeenth	61 pipes ^{vintage}
IV Fourniture (1 1/3')	244 pipes ^{r/a}
8' Major Trumpet	61 pipes ^{ems}
8' Trompette en Chamade	(Antiphonal)
Carillon	
Chimes	
MIDI on Great	

SWELL ORGAN

16' Lieblich Gedeckt	61 pipes ^{vintage}
8' Diapason	61 pipes ^{newer}
8' Dulcet Flute	61 pipes ^{newer}
8' Viola	61 pipes ^{newer}
8' Viola Celeste	49 pipes ^{newer}
4' Principal	61 pipes ^{r/a}
4' Spitz Flute	61 pipes ^{newer}
2 2/3' Nazard	61 pipes ^{newer}
2' Gemshorn	61 pipes ^{newer}
1 3/5' Tierce	49 pipes ^{newer}
IV Plein Jeu 2'	244 pipes ^{r/a}
16' Waldhorn	61 pipes ^{ems}
8' Trumpet	61 pipes ^{ems}
8' Oboe	61 pipes ^{ems}
8' Vox Humana	61 pipes ^{ems}

SWELL ORGAN (cont'd.)

4' Clarion	61 pipes ^{ems}
8' Trompette en Chamade	(Antiphonal)
Tremolo	
MIDI on Swell	

CHOIR ORGAN

16' Gamba	73 pipes ^{ems}
8' English Diapason	61 pipes ^{vintage}
8' Bourdon	49 pipes ^{r/a}
8' Concert Flute	73 pipes ^{ems}
8' Gamba	61 pipes ^{h/h}
8' Gamba Celeste	61 pipes ^{h/h}
8' Ethereal Celeste II	98 pipes ^{h/h}
8' Flauto Dolce	73 pipes ^{ems}
8' Flute Celeste	61 pipes ^{ems}
4' Flute d'Amour	73 pipes ^{ems}
2' Piccolo	61 pipes ^{h/h}
8' Clarinet	73 pipes ^{ems}
8' French Horn	73 pipes ^{newer}
8' English Horn	73 pipes ^{newer}
Tremolo	
Chimes	
MIDI on Choir	

POSITIV ORGAN

8' Gemshorn	61 pipes ^{newer}
8' Gedeckt	61 pipes ^{newer}
4' Principal	61 pipes ^{newer}
2' Octave	61 pipes ^{newer}
III Mixture	183 pipes ^{newer}
8' Trompette en Chamade	(Antiphonal)

ANTI-PHONAL ORGAN

8' Open Diapason	61 pipes ^{ems}
8' Clarabella	61 pipes ^{ems}
8' Dulcet Flute	61 pipes ^{r/a}
8' Viole	61 pipes ^{ems}
8' Viole Celeste	49 pipes ^{ems}
4' Octave	61 pipes ^{newer}
4' Dulcet Flute	(from 8') ^{r/a}
2' Octave	(from 4') ^{newer}
III Mixture	183 pipes ^{vintage}
8' Vox Humana	61 pipes ^{vintage}
8' Trompette en Chamade	61 pipes ^{r/a}
MIDI on Antiphonal	

PEDAL ORGAN

32' Subbourdon	(Resultant)
16' Open Diapason	32 pipes ^{ems}
16' Violone	32 pipes ^{h/h}
16' Bourdon	32 pipes ^{ems}
16' Gamba	(Choir)
16' Lieblich Gedeckt	(Swell)
16' Echo Bass	(Antiphonal)
8' Octave	32 pipes
8' Viol	12 pipes
8' Bourdon	12 pipes ^{ems}
8' Still Gedeckt	(Swell) ^{ems}
4' Choral Bass	12 pipes ^{newer}
4' Bourdon	12 pipes ^{ems}
IV Mixture 2 2/3'	(from Violone)
32' Ophecleide	12 notes
16' Ophecleide	32 pipes ^{h/h}
16' Waldhorn	(Swell)
8' Trumpet	12 pipes ^{h/h}
8' Trompette en Chamade	(Antiphonal)
Chimes	
MIDI on Pedal	

Notes on pipe sources:

“ems” denotes pipes from the original 1930 E. M. Skinner organ Opus 803. Apart from obvious repairs or adjustments, the speech of these pipes remains as Skinner left them.

“h/h” denotes pipes from 1926 E. & G. G. Hook and Hastings organ Opus 2455, built in 1922 for Park Avenue Baptist Church, New York City. These pipes received minor voicing adjustments to match the original Skinner style.

“r/a” refers to new ranks installed by Reynolds Associates, Inc., as part of the 2009 or 2015 projects. These new pipes were specifically scaled and voiced in sympathy with the original organ.

“newer” pipes date from the 1980 project following the damage that occurred in the 1978 disaster. Reynolds Associates extensively revoiced these pipes to be in sympathy with the Romantic sound of this instrument.

“vintage” pipes are quality organ pipes that are more or less contemporary with the 1930 Skinner organ. Most of these were installed in the 1980 project. These pipes were revoiced as required.