

Pipe Organ History

Allen Park Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The pipe organ at Allen Park Presbyterian Church has faithfully served the congregation of Allen Park Presbyterian Church for 56 years. Before its installation in our sanctuary, it had a few previous homes.

The organ was originally built by the Aeolian Pipe Organ Company 1909 and given the serial number 1110. It was built for Lyon and Healy, manufacturers of harps and other musical instruments, to entertain customers while they shopped. In 1929, the pipe organ was sold and put into the Kasteel Batavia mansion in Grosse Pointe. In 1962, the MacDonald family, who lived in the mansion at the time, decided they no longer wanted the instrument and decided to donate the twelve rank organ when they heard the church was building a new sanctuary.

At that time, Allen Park Presbyterian Church was at a membership of 2,700 people. They installed the organ in the new sanctuary and added pipes made by Casavant Frères. The original Aeolian pipes make up the swell, choir, and pedal divisions, and the new pipes make up the great and antiphonal divisions. The organ has 44 ranks (2,706 pipes).

After years of wonderful organ music, the instrument began to fall into disrepair. In 1986 the organ went through restoration and repair, removing some pipes and replacing them.

Unfortunately in 2013, the organ was struck by lightning and the operating system of the organ was destroyed. The pipe organ was rendered silent.

While insurance claims were filed, the Session approved the formation of the **Pipe Organ Rescue Team** to discern the feasibility of restoring the pipe organ to her full glory after the operating system was replaced in early 2014.

Since that time, much work has been accomplished and the pipe organ is filling the sanctuary once again with its glorious sounds.

As we move into the future, when funds are donated or available, we continue to restore the organ to its full glory by making repairs such as re-leathering, and fixing or replacing collapsing, missing, and old pipes that have been damaged. Thank you for your support. For info, please contact: [PIPE ORGAN AT APPC](#)