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Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

A whole new set of pipes Church's new organ almost ready to sing

by Patricia Bathurst

The magnificent instrument was barely a year old, and only halfway toward reaching its potential on the night it was destroyed. Trinity Episcopal Cathedral had just completed a \$2 million restoration that included installation of a 2,000-pipe Schantz organ. The organ was what Alan de Puy, the cathedral's canon musician, described as "half of what was to become the great cathedral organ."

Losing the organ was a heartbreaker for de Puy. "It took five years of fund-raising just to get the first half of the organ," he said. "It was so hard, and then to lose it completely in such a short time ..."

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral's 82-year-old building at 100 W. Roosevelt St., didn't entirely go up in smoke on Oct. 9, 2002 - but it might as well have. At the time, Assistant Phoenix Fire Chief Bob Khan called the sanctuary a "total loss," with an estimated \$3 million in damages. The fire was under control in about 15 minutes.

The next day, de Puy called the Schantz Organ Co. in Orrville, Ohio. "I needed to place the order," he said. Fortunately for Trinity, the congregation had scheduled expansion work, and got an early start on getting a new organ. "Schantz builds beautiful instruments," de Puy said. "They've been in business for 128 years, and are on the verge of becoming one of the great builders."

De Puy, 39, has been with Trinity for a decade. He said the Schantz company builds an instrument with an eclectic sound. "Musically, our organ will be able to play all periods of liturgical music beautifully because it has such a broad scope that's inclusive of all genres," he said.

Now that the organ's actually in the room and nearly complete, de Puy is even more pleased. "To begin, the acoustics of the room are better (Trinity enlisted a professional's aid to improve the sanctuary's sound after the fire), and the sound of the organ is so well done. It's elegant, but full."

Trinity's 35-member choir has yet to officially practice with the new organ, he said, but will be in full voice for the Oct. 9 rededication of the cathedral. "Schantz is just completing installation over the next few weeks," he said. "They have very creative voicing people who give the organ its sound. When they are done, the organ will have a tonal palette that is very broad, with many colors. "I'm thrilled. It's so much more than I expected."

You can contact the writer at pabathurst@hotmail.com.

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E.J. Montini

Arpaio wasn't always the storm vs. immigration, day laborers

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Clay Thompson

Need a quest? Try hitting Ariz.'s highest, lowest points in a day

My friends and I want to be able to say we stood on the highest and lowest points in Arizona on the same day. We know Mount Humphreys near Flagstaff is the highest point and we will start there. But where is the lowest point? Is it marked?



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