

Our Lady Star of the Sea
Karl Wilhelm, Opus 153 (2001)

The organ at Our Lady Star of the Sea was designed and built by Karl Wilhelm of Mont St. Hilaire, Quebec, Canada.

The organ is built according to classical principles that are widely accepted as the most reliable functionally and the most satisfying artistically. The playing action of the organ is direct mechanical (tracker). This means that a system of levers and rods, wooden strips called trackers, connect the keys to the valves that admit wind to the pipes. This system responds precisely to the organist's fingers for closest possible control over the sounding of the pipes. The stop action is electric and the organ offers a complete set of registration aids featuring 32 levels of solid-state memory.

The organ consists of three divisions: the Great above the impost, the Swell enclosed on the top of the Great, and the Pedal with the Great, except the Subbass 16' and Posaune 16' which are of poplar woods and behind the main case. There are 30 stops of different voices controlled by individual draw knobs placed on both sides of the two-manual keyboard. The natural keys are plated with cow bone and the sharp keys are made of ebony. Altogether there are a total of 43 ranks consisting of 1985 pipes.

The casework is made of solid white oak, compatible to the woodwork in the church. The shades above the pipes use motifs taken from the stained glass windows, which illustrate the waves of the lake, thus providing an acoustical function as well as enhancing the visual appearance of the organ.

In order to achieve a satisfying tonal ensemble, various stops were chosen from different schools of organ building. This organ mainly represents the classic German and French orientation with its principal choruses, flutes, strings, and reed stops. The brilliant sound of the instrument can be attributed to the temperament after Valloti, which yields six pure fifths. The metal façade pipes are 75% pure polished tin. Other metal pipes in the organ are an alloy of 40% tin and 60% lead.

This instrument has one wedge shaped bellows and a winding configuration that creates a flexible wind effect.

The organ was dedicated on October 28, 2001 and generously donated to the parish by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Cracchiolo.

-From the notes in the dedication recital program