

How Can You Help?

To date we have raised \$136,000 for the organ refurbishment project. Our aim is to fundraise an additional \$180,000 in order to reach our goal of \$316,000. Your donation will help ensure that this exceptional instrument is maintained for future generations.

NOTE: Donations are tax deductible. Receipts will be issued for donations of \$20.00 or more. Thank you for your support!

Please find enclosed:

- A cheque made out to the order of "Notre Dame Cathedral – organ fund" _____
- Monthly deposit _____
- Pledge _____
- etransfer _____ please send to info@notredameottawa.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

E-mail: _____

Credit Card: _____

Expiry: _____

- Please check here if you do not wish to receive further information about the organ and choir.

Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica
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Info: (613) 241-7496



LA BASILIQUE-CATHÉDRALE
NOTRE-DAME
CATHÉDRALE BASILICA
OTTAWA, CANADA

notredameottawa.com

In May 2013, an Organ Refurbishment Committee assembled a proposal for the refurbishment of the organ at Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica. The proposal was presented to the College of Consultors of the Archdiocese and approved in May 2018.

The Cathedral contracted Casavant Frères to undertake the refurbishment of the organ, which began in July 2018 and was completed in February 2019.

"One cannot imagine our liturgical celebrations without the contribution of the voice of our organ which, joined with that of the congregation, sings our praises to the Lord."

Mgr. Daniel Berniquez, Rector



Help us preserve one of Canada's musical gems:

The Organ at Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica (Ottawa)

The first organ to use electric key action in North America.

One of the three outstanding organs in the history of the Casavant firm.

What did the organ project entail?

The current instrument (which includes both the Gallery and Sanctuary organs) has over 4,800 pipes (97 ranks in 8 divisions over three manuals and pedals), with 73 stops (56 for the Gallery organ and 17 for the Sanctuary Organ). It has a 256 memory level combination system.

Voicing The organ pipes were adjusted so that they conform to the standards of tone, pitch and colour, to ensure an even and a more cohesive ensemble.



Wind supply

Concussion bellows were added to provide a stable wind supply to the Gallery organ. The cracks in the wind lines of the Sanctuary organ were repaired, allowing it to be playable once again.



Expression box

A 16 pixel Peterson controller was added to the swell box for smoother dynamic control (gradual increase and decrease in volume).

Ciphers

A defect resulting in the continuous sounding of a pipe when no note is played. Broken and bent pipes were repaired.

New tongues/shallots This creates more stable tuning and will greatly reduce maintenance costs. A tongue is a thin strip of brass that vibrates to produce the sound in a reed pipe such as trumpets, oboes, clarinets. A shallot is the rim that the tongue beats against.



1850

The first organ was an 18-stop instrument (1,063 pipes) built by Joseph Casavant, the founder of the Casavant organ building firm.

1892

The second organ was completely rebuilt by Casavant's sons with a 52-stop gallery organ at the rear of the Cathedral and a 17-stop sanctuary organ above the sanctuary.

1917

The organ was modified and enlarged.



1940

There was a major rebuild by Casavant Frères. A new console was installed, the wind chests were replaced and both organs were dismantled.

1975

The organ was modified and enlarged.

1999

A major restoration by Guilbault Thérien replaced the 1940 console and added 7 new stops.

