

Glasgow, Glasgow Cathedral

Glasgow Cathedral, G4 0QZ Glasgow, United Kingdom



Builder	H. 'Father' Willis
Year	ca. 1879
Period/Style	Romantic
Stops	69
Keyboards	4+P
Keyaction	electro-pneumatic
Tuning	Equal at 440 Hz

Description

The organ of Glasgow Cathedral was originally built in 1879 by the renowned Henry 'Father' Willis, with input from Albert Lister Peace. It was a three-manual instrument notable for its high-quality spotted metal pipework and innovative features, such as an extended compass and unique stops like the 2' Piccolo Harmonique. Over the next five decades, the organ was expanded and modified by subsequent generations of the Willis firm, growing into a four-manual instrument. Notably, it included distinctive stops like the enclosed Tuba Minor and a refined Tibia, which even influenced the design of the Liverpool Cathedral organ. Willis III later declared it "the finest in Scotland."

Further rebuilds in 1971 by J.W. Walker & Sons, and in 1996 by Harrison & Harrison, sought to modernize and eventually restore the instrument closer to Willis's original vision. The 1996 project, advised by John Turner and Philip Ledger, included comprehensive mechanical updates, restoration of wind reservoirs, and a refined internal layout. Today, much of the original Willis pipework remains, especially in the Great and Pedal divisions, while the Solo division represents a more recent creation by Harrison & Harrison. The organ remains a celebrated and historically rich instrument, integral to the musical life of Glasgow Cathedral.

Stoplist/Disposition

Great	Choir (enclosed)	Swell (enclosed)	Solo	Pedal
Double Open Diapason 16	Contra Viola 16	Lieblich Bourdon 16	Open Diapason 8	Double Open Wood 32
Open Diapason 1 8	Principal 8	Geigen 8	Stopped Diapason 8	Open Wood 16
Open Diapason 2 8	Claribel Flute 8	Lieblich Gedackt 8	Principal 4	Open Diapason 16
Flûte Harmonique 8	Viola 8	Salicional 8	Spitzflute 4	Bourdon 16
Gamba 8	Celeste 8	Vox Angelica 8	Nazard 2 2/3	Dulciana 16
Principal 4	Octave 4	Octave Geigen 4	Fifteenth 2	Octave 8
Flûte Harmonique 4	Flute 4	Lieblich Flute 4	Open Flute 2	Violoncello 8
Twelfth 2 2/3	Piccolo 2	Flageolet 2	Tierce 1 3/5	Bass Flute 8
Fifteenth 2	Quint 1 1/3	Mixture (22.26.29) III	Larigot 1 1/3	Super Octave 4
Mixture (12.15.19.22) IV	Mixture (15.19.22) III	Contra Hautboy 16	Mixture (15.19.22.26) IV	Open Flute 4
Mixture (17.19.22) III	Cor Anglais 16	Hautboy 8	Cromorne 8	Mixture (22.26.29) III
Double Trumpet 16	Corno di Bassetto 8	Cornopean 8	Tuba 8	Contra Trombone 32
Trumpet 8	Trompette 8	Clarion 4		Trombone 16
Clarion 4	Tuba (Solo) (8)			Trumpet (Great) (16)
				Clarion 8
				Shawm 4

Additional: Choir/Solo manual exchange, 8 general pistons (with stepper) and 999 memory levels, 8 divisional pistons per department and 8 memory levels, Balanced expression pedals to the Choir and Swell, usual couplers, sub- and super-octave for Swell and Choir

Sources

<https://www.gcfestival.com/organ>

<https://glasgowcathedral.org/music>