

The Compton Organ

The first organ in the present building was installed in the west gallery in the early 1740s. Little is known about it, except that by the end of the century it was worn out. In 1808 Thomas Elliot provided a new instrument of three manuals, housed in the old eighteenth-century case. This was rebuilt in 1879 by John Stringer, who retained much of Elliot's pipe-work and again made use of the old case.

When the parish church of All Saints became a cathedral in 1927, there were new musical demands, to which the Stringer organ was no longer equal. Not only was it in serious disrepair, but the position of its console on the west gallery was not ideal for choral accompaniment. The time was ripe for a rebuild and this work was undertaken by The John Compton Organ Company in 1939. Keeping about 1500 pipes from the Stringer organ, and making skilful use of extension (particularly on the Great, Choir and Pedal divisions), he built a four-manual instrument playable from a detached console with illuminated stops, positioned on the north side of the chancel. Almost all the pipes were enclosed (the exception being the Pedal Open Wood and its derivatives) and to begin with, only the bare expression chambers were on view, with the old case having been abandoned. The opening recital was given on 16th December 1939 by George Thalben-Ball.

The Compton of 1939 is essentially the instrument we have today, except that in 1963 it was given a new façade of dummy pipes. In 1992 Rushworth and Dreaper renewed the action, put the existing console on wheels, and undertook some tonal modifications. Two new stops were added on the Solo and the existing pipe-work was reworked to give a brighter sound to the Great and to provide a more substantial secondary chorus on the Choir.

Specification

(All Divisions Enclosed)

Pedal	Great
1 Sub Bass 32	51 Double Diapason 16
2 Open Wood 16	52 First Diapason 8
3 Diaphone 16	53 Second Diapason 8
4 Contra Bass 16	54 Third Diapason 8
5 Bourdon 16	55 Hohlflote 8
6 Echo Bourdon 16	56 Dulciana 8
7 Dulciana 16	57 First Octave 4
8 Octave Wood 8	58 Second Octave 4
9 Flute 8	59 Open Flute 4
10 Dulciana 8	60 Twelfth $2\frac{2}{3}$
11 Super Octave Wood 4	61 Quint Flute $2\frac{2}{3}$
12 Octave Flute 4	62 First Fifteenth 2
13 Furniture IV 12.15.19.22	63 Second Fifteenth 2
14 Acuta II 26.29	64 Octave Flute 2
15 Contra Trombone 32	65 Plein Jeu III 19.22.26
16 Trombone 16	66 Cymbale II 26.29
17 Posaune 16	67 Contra Posaune 16
18 Fagotto 16	68 Posaune 8
19 Clarinet 16 (Tenor C)	69 Clarion 4
20 Tromba 8	70 Tromba 8
21 Clarion 4	

Choir

- 22 Gemshorn 8
- 23 Vox Angelica 8
- 24 Lieblich Gedeckt 8
- 25 Stopped Flute 4
- 26 Nazard $2\frac{2}{3}$
- 27 Flautino 2
- 28 Tierce $1\frac{3}{5}$
- 29 Contra Dulciana 16
- 30 Third Diapason 8
- 31 Hohlfloete 8
- 32 Dulciana 8
- 33 Principal 4
- 34 Open Flute 4
- 35 Octave 2
- 36 Quint $1\frac{1}{3}$
- 37 Octavin 1
- 38 Double Clarinet 16 (Tenor C)
- 39 Clarinet 8
- 40 Orchestral Oboe 8
- 41 Tremulant

Bombarde (Playable from the Choir)

- 42 Diapason 8
- 43 Octave 4
- 44 Plein Jeu III 15.19.22
- 45 Cymbale IV 22.26.29.33
- 46 Contra Posaune 16
- 47 Posaune 8
- 48 Tromba 8
- 49 Clarion 4
- 50 Tuba 8

Couplers

- Swell to Pedal
- Swell to Great
- Swell to Choir
- Swell octave
- Swell suboctave
- Swell unison off
- Choir to Pedal
- Choir octave
- Choir suboctave
- Choir unison off
- Great to Pedal
- Solo to Pedal
- Solo octave to Pedal
- Solo to Great
- Solo to Swell
- Solo to Choir
- Great to Choir

Accessories

- 3 expression pedals with mechanical indicators:
 - (1) Great, Choir & Pedal
 - (2) Swell
 - (3) Solo
- Crescendo pedal (60 stages, 4 levels) with illuminated bar graph
- 8 general thumb pistons
- 8 thumb pistons to each manual (with double touch pedal combinations)
- Reversible thumb piston to each Pedal coupler
- Reversible piston for Swell to Great
- Tremulants off thumb piston
- 8 toe pistons to Pedal
- 4 toe pistons each to Great and Swell
- Reversible toe piston for Great to Pedal
- General Cancel
- Lockable setter
- SSL digital control panel for 8-level capture system.
- Sustainers to Choir and Solo

Swell

- 71 Bourdon 16
- 72 Open Diapason 8
- 73 Salicional 8
- 74 Voix Célestes 8 (Tenor C)
- 75 Stopped Diapason 8
- 76 Principal 4
- 77 Waldflöte 4
- 78 Fifteenth 2
- 79 Cymbale IV 22.26.29.33
- 80 Contra Fagotto 16
- 81 Trumpet 8
- 82 Fagotto 8
- 83 Hautboy 8
- 84 Clarion 4
- 85 Tremulant

Solo

- 86 Viole d'Orchestre 8
- 87 Violes Célestes 8 (Tenor G)
- 88 Viola 4
- 89 Violes Célestes 4
- 90 Viol Fifteenth 2
- 91 Concert Flute 4
- 92 Harmonic Flute 4
- 93 Harmonic Piccolo 2
- 94 Cornet V 1.8.12.15.17 (in Swell box)
- 95 Bassoon 16 (Tenor C)
- 96 Clarinet 8
- 97 Orchestral Oboe 8
- 98 Vox Humana 8
- 99 Tuba 8
- 100 Tuba Clarion 4
- 101 Tremulant