

# CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL

141 EAST AVENUE

Hook and Hastings Company – Boston, Massachusetts

Opus 1697, 1898

## PEDAL ORGAN

16' Subbass

## GREAT ORGAN – I

8' Open Diapason  
8' Melodia  
8' Dulciana (TC)  
4' Octave

## SWELL ORGAN – II

8' Stopped Diapason  
8' Viola (TC)  
4' Harmonic Flute  
8' Oboe (TC)

Manual compass: 58 notes

Pedal compass: 30 notes

Mechanical action

Tremulant

9 Stops

9 Ranks

458 Pipes

## COUPLERS

Swell to Great  
Swell to Great 8va  
Great to Pedal  
Swell to Pedal

In the early Fall of 2006 it came to the attention of Kerala Snyder, Professor Emerita of Musicology at Eastman School of Music, that Carolyn and Noel Nilson of Sandisfield Massachusetts were looking for a new home for their Hook & Hastings pipe organ. The organ had been purchased by the Nilsons through the Organ Clearing House in 1968, assembled by them in their home, and lovingly cared for over the years. Some phone calls were made, and it was arranged that Barbara Owen would stop by and take a look at the organ, which she did, and to which she gave her stamp of approval.

On October 28, Rob Kerner, Pipe Organ Technician of the Eastman School, went to the Nilsons to look over the organ from a tuning and maintenance point of view, and to estimate what it would take to get the organ to Rochester. He agreed that this instrument was a fine example of Hook & Hastings' work, was unusually well preserved (pumping mechanism and all), and would make a very welcome addition to Eastman's collection. Since the Nilsons were selling their house and wanted to move the organ quickly, a few more calls were made, and the Nilsons graciously agreed to donate the organ to the Eastman School.

On November 26, Rob Kerner and his student assistant, Robert Kwan, drove to Massachusetts to dismantle and pack up Hook and Hastings opus 1697. With the hired help of two employees from Parsons Pipe Organ Builders who joined them the following day, they disassembled, packed, and loaded the organ into a moving POD in 18 hours.

The POD remained in storage until January 22, 2007, when it was delivered to Christ Church. A large team of Eastman organ students was on hand to quickly unload the POD and place the organ parts on the floor of the sanctuary where the pews were cleared away.

Then, starting on Jan. 24, the organ students enrolled in Mr. Kerner's "Organ Design and Maintenance" class signed up in shifts for working on assembling the organ under his direction. Many other organ students volunteered their help as well. By the end of March, the organ was complete, and in service.