

Fratelli Ruffatti

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A NEW RUFFATTI ORGAN IN ENGLAND

We are happy to announce that the famous Pershore Abbey in Worcestershire, UK, has contracted for a new Ruffatti three-manual pipe organ. A grade I listed building dating back to the middle ages, the abbey was once part of a huge monastery. It features a rare example of Norman and Early English architecture. Henry VIII destroyed its entire nave, only leaving the original monks' quire intact, which has since been used as an Anglican church. As such, the present Anglican Abbey Church of the Holy Cross can welcome into its vast space up to three hundred persons for church services, cultural activities and concerts.



The new organ, a three-manual instrument of 33 stops, will be located inside two oak cases, which will be hung on the wall at one side of the nave. The case design is contemporary, and not intended to be a copy from the past, but to blend in with the architectural lines of the splendid medieval arches. The façade will feature highly shiny pipes made from 95% tin alloy, a few of which will be embossed in a diamond pattern, a traditional feature of ancient organs. Completion of the instrument is expected to take place in 2021.



At left, a computer image of the new Ruffatti pipe organ at Pershore Abbey, featuring two side-by-side oak cases. At right, a detail of the case, with its hand-made carvings and the embossed central pipe.



STOPLIST

GREAT ORGAN Unenclosed – II

- Bourdon 16'
- Gedeckt 8'
- Octave 4'
- Transverse Flute 4'
- Super Octave 2'
- Mixture IV 1-1/3'
- Herald Trumpet 8' (Prepared)
- Tremulant
- Great 16'
- Unison Off
- Great 4'

SWELL ORGAN Enclosed – III

- Stopped Diapason 8'
- Principal 8'
- Viola Gamba 8'
- Viola Celeste 8'
- Principal 4'
- Venetian Flute 4'
- Nazard 2-2/3'
- Piccolo 2'
- Tierce 1-3/5'
- Plein Jeu III 2'
- Trompette Harmonique 8'
- Herald Trumpet 8' (Prepared)
- Tremulant
- Swell 16'
- Unison Off
- Swell 4'

POSITIV ORGAN Unenclosed – I

- Holzgedeckt 8'
- Gemshorn 8'
- Koppelflöte 4'
- Blockflöte 2'
- Quintflöte 1-1/3'
- Cromorne 8'
- Herald Trumpet 8' (Prepared)
- Super Octave 4'
- Tremulant
- Choir 16'
- Unison Off
- Choir 4'

PEDAL ORGAN

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Resultant 32' | Octave 8' | Fagotto 16' |
| Subbass 16' | Bourdon 8' | Fagotto 8' |
| Bourdon 16' (Great) | Gedeckt 8' (Great) | Schalmei 4' |

A RESTORED RUFFATTI ORGAN IN MODENA, ITALY

The year 2019 has witnessed the completion of a very important organ restoration. While not of large dimensions, the instrument represents an important piece of Italian organbuilding history, being one of the first organs built in Italy in the second part of the 20th century with mechanical transmission, which was then being “re-discovered” after decades of neglect. The organ was manufactured by Fratelli Ruffatti in 1964, featuring a stoplist designed by the late Luigi Ferdinando Tagliavini. It is contained within the splendid historic organ case originally built in 1524 to house the instrument built by Giovanbattista Facchetti of Brescia. The case and the 16-foot façade pipes, which are still in use, were the only surviving elements of the ancient organ. Ruffatti spent a great deal of time and effort to restore these ancient pipes, as the metal was badly corroded.

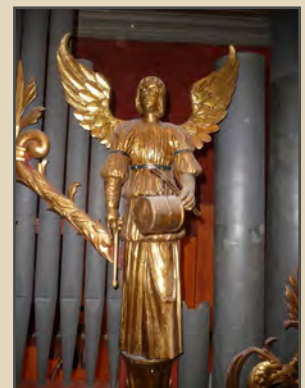
The total disassembly of the organ was made necessary by the decay of the ancient balcony. In order to consolidate its weakening support structure, which was in danger of collapse, the organ had to be completely removed. This was the perfect occasion for a total refurbishment and a limited enhancement of the original mechanical action.



Three organ recitals in June of 2019 marked the “re-birth” of the instrument. They were presented by Matthew Martin, Organist and Choirmaster at Keble College, Oxford, Thomas Ospital, titular organist at St. Eustache, Paris, and Stefano Pellini, renowned recitalist from Modena, who was also the consultant on the restoration project.



In the center is the organ and its splendid casework, built in 1524 to house the organ built by Giovanbattista Facchetti of Brescia.



Decorating the casework are three angels, each holding a different instrument: a trumpet, a triangle, and a drum.





At left, the mechanical console, with keys in European boxwood and African ebony. The wood around the keyboards is Indian rosewood. At right, the intricate mechanical action, manufactured entirely by Ruffatti in 1964.



STOPLIST

Grand'Organo
61 notes

Principale 16'
Ottava 8'
Decima quinta 4'
Decima nona 2-2/3'
Vigesima seconda 2'
Vigesima sesta 1-1/3'
Vigesima nona 1'
Flauto in VIII 8'
Flauto in XV 4'
Cornetta 1 3/5'
Fiffaro 16'

Organo Positivo - Espressivo
61 notes

Principale coperto 8'
Flauto in VIII 4'
Flauto in XII 2-2/3'
Decima quinta 2'
Decima nona 1-1/3'
Vigesima seconda 1'
Cromorno 8'
Tremolo

Pedale – 32 notes

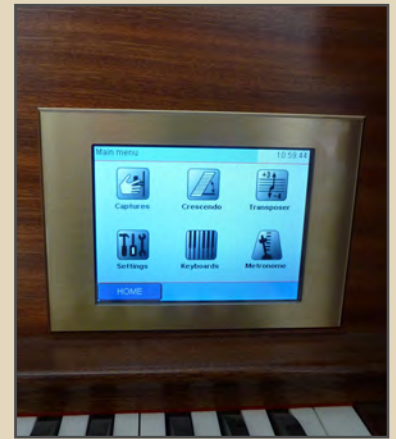
Contrabasso coperto 16'
Ottava coperta 8'
Fagotto 8'
Oboe 4'

A NEW CONSOLE FOR HÄRNÖSAND CATHEDRAL, SWEDEN

The Cathedral of Härnösand has recently commissioned Fratelli Ruffatti to build a new four-manual console. It will control two organs: the two-manual instrument built by Fratelli Ruffatti in 2012 and the four-manual Gallery organ built by Bruno Christensen & Sønner in 1975. The Gallery instrument will be controlled by the new remote console while at the same time retaining its original mechanical transmission.

The console, at the request of the cathedral's Director of Music and Organist, Lars Fredriksson, is being built in the style which was in use at Fratelli Ruffatti in the mid-1900s, with stop action by tilting tablets placed on the sides of the keyboards in tiers.

The new console will feature a touch-screen control panel, a great innovation which, through icons and simple messages, will allow easy, intuitive access to all functions of the system. A wide selection of innovative features is available with the system, all aimed at simplifying the use of the instrument and increasing versatility. For further information, please contact us at organs@ruffatti.com.



Details of the console under construction. Left: Mouldings. The curved profiles have been carved by hand. Middle: the tiers that will house the stop action's tilting tablets.. Right: The new touch-screen control panel.

ANOTHER NEW RUFFATTI ORGAN COMING TO THE UNITED STATES

The City of New Orleans, Louisiana, will soon have its first Fratelli Ruffatti organ. It will be installed in the balcony of the beautiful chapel at Notre Dame Seminary. The organ will be contained inside a newly built wooden case, which will become a prominent fixture of the building's architecture. Tonal composition for this instrument is unconventional in many ways, but will allow great flexibility, both for liturgical use and for concerts. A clear example is in the Grand-Orgue, which is partially under expression. Flexibility will further be enhanced by the careful scaling of the pipes and by the voicing techniques which we use at Fratelli Ruffatti. The "French accent" will not be limited to the nomenclature of the stops: several stops will be scaled following dimensions of famous French organbuilder Aristide Cavallé-Coll. The stoplist has been designed by Max Tenney, Archdiocesan Organist and Director of the Office of Sacred Music, in collaboration with Fratelli Ruffatti. The visual appearance of the instrument will soon be unveiled. Stay tuned for details. The stoplist appears on the following page.

STOPLIST

GRAND-ORGUE (* = Enclosed)	EXPRESSIF Enclosed	PÉDALE Open
Montre 16'	Bourdon Doux 16' (prepared)	Contre Basse 32' (prepared)
Bourdon 16' * (prepared)	Stopped Diapason 8'	Contre Bourdon 32' (prepared)
Montre 8'	Viole de Gambe 8'	Resultant 32'
Flûte Harmonique 8'*	Viole Celeste 8'	Harmonics V 32'
Bourdon * 8'	Prestant 4'	Montre 16' (Grand-Orgue)
Gemshorn * 8'	Flûte Creuse 4'	Soubasse 16'
Gemshorn Celeste * 8'	Nasard 2-2/3'	Bourdon 16' (Grand-Orgue)
Prestant 4'	Octavin 2'	Bourdon Doux 16' (Expressif)
Flûte Octaviane * 4'	Tierce 1-3/5'	Basse 8'
Quint 2-2/3'	Plein Jeu IV 2'	Bourdon 8'
Doublette 2'	Basson-Hautbois 16'	Stopped Diapason 8' (Expressif)
Tierce 1-3/5'	Trompette Harmonique 8'	Flûte 4'
Fourniture III-V 2'	Hautbois 8'	Contre Bombarde 32' (prepared)
Trompette de Fête * 8' (horizontal)	Trompette de Fête 8' (Grand-Orgue)	Contre Basson 32' (prepared)
Chimes (prepared)	Chimes (prepared)	Bombarde 16'
Zimbelstern	Tremblant	Basson 16' (Expressif)
Tremblant for expressive stops	Sub Octave	Trompette 8'
Sub Octave	Unison Off	Hautbois 4' (Expressif)
Unison Off	Super Octave	Trompette de Fête 8' (Grand-Orgue)
Super Octave		Chimes (prepared)

AN INCREDIBLE EVENT

The National Trust for Italy (Fondo Ambiente Italiano, or FAI) is well known in Italy for its support of culture and the arts. Among other activities, it promotes a number of events which are widely covered by the internet and national media. These are held twice a year over the entire Italian territory. They are aimed at increasing awareness of traditions and artistic values. Visits are organized to sites that would not normally be accessible to the general public. For 2019, Fratelli Ruffatti was asked to open its doors for one of these events.

On Sunday, October 13th, the factory was open for guided tours from 10:00am until 6:00pm. Trained guides were at the ready to walk visitors through the entire process of making a pipe organ. Then, something unexpected happened: people started lining up from early morning to register for the visit. Many of them came from very distant locations. At the end of the day, more than 600 visitors were able to take the tour, only a portion of the many more who showed up.



The long line of visitors extends all the way to the street.

From the melting of the metal to make pipes to the manufacturing of wooden parts to the assembly of entire instruments, the visitors were able to appreciate the handcrafting that goes into making a pipe organ, at times utilizing techniques and tools that have long been out of use elsewhere.

Visitors were divided in small groups and at each “station” FAI volunteers were ready to explain the manufacturing procedures. The photo at right shows one of a set of twin consoles, part of an organ which will soon be delivered to a church in Pennsylvania. In the background, a portion of the organ façade is visible.



Visiting the woodworking department



The unique and ancient “wooden organ” of Fusine



Inside the Fusine organ

The restoration of the “wooden organ” of Fusine, an instrument which is quickly becoming world-famous, was near completion, and the visitors were able not only to see it but also to hear its incredible sound. Most of the pipes of this organ, built around 1810, are hand carved in cylindrical or conical form from spruce and maple, from the large façade pipes down to the smallest pipes of the ripieno. Some of the wooden pipes are smaller than a pencil, hand carved with the utmost precision by Agostino De Marco as an imitation of “normal” metal pipes. The several hundred such pipes make this instrument unique to the world.