Let Hope Resound

The New Marble Pipe Organ

Marble Collegiate Church
Throughout the years, Marble Collegiate Church has been known all across America as a place where Worship is central to the life and mission of the church. From my first day here, I have been aware that a powerful and primary element of that is the outstanding music to which we are treated week by week. The personal testimonies I hear at the Fifth Avenue door, the e-mails I receive, the responses from our live-streamers, and conversations throughout the week all confirm my feeling that our church provides people with a singularly moving ministry of music. It is a ministry that connects our souls to God. At Marble Collegiate, Faith is both spoken and sung that Hope might once again reverberate deep in our souls. Preaching, prayer, and music partner in proclaiming what Jesus called “the Truth that sets us free.” It is my prayer that in years to come that sacred partnership will be enhanced and our great ministry of music will remain an instrument through which the human spirit and God’s Spirit continue to meet. Whenever that happens, we are standing on holy ground.

– Dr. Michael B. Brown, Senior Minister

When I auditioned for Marble in 1995, the first thing I was asked to do was play a hymn – “For All the Saints.” I dutifully plowed through all eight verses in a cavernous sanctuary with exactly two people in it, all the while thinking it rather strange. Later I played my first service at Marble, and I understood. The opening hymn was, “When Morning Gilds the Skies,” and when the congregation began singing I practically leapt off the organ bench! The singing was passionate, spirit-filled, jubilant. It was then I realized how much Marble loves to sing and that what they wanted was a great accompanist. Being that accompanist has fed my soul deeply for over 18 years. Now the time has come for a pipe organ that equals the greatness of our singing congregation, and I can’t wait to hear the new sound of praise that will arise from that incredible collaboration!

– Kenneth Dake, Director of Music
“Music was a major draw for me in becoming involved at Marble, first through Festival of Voices and then later, it was one of the reasons I decided to become a member. A revitalized church organ will add so much to our Music ministry and to the special spirit that defines our church.”

– Larry Schafer, Marble Member, Tenor, Festival of Voices Choir

“As a life-long music educator and administrator, a critical aspect of my work is in creating opportunities for students and teachers to experience the transformative power of music. This transformation – by the movement of God’s Spirit – occurs each week at Marble Church. We arrive at Marble’s doors in various states of joy, doubt, hope and need, and then, through the “pitch perfect” musical choices of Kenneth Dake leading us powerfully from his seat at the organ, the salve of affirmation, healing and promise is applied in our lives.”

– Barbara Murray, Marble Member, Director of Music Programs, NYC Department of Education

“Marble’s pipe organ led the celebration on our wedding day. Beginning with a medley of six hymns for organ and harp, a stirring processional to accompany us, together, down the aisle, singing three hymns during the ceremony, and concluding with a recessional that captured our joy, the organ presided over all.”

– Meg Armstrong, Marble Member, and Greg Lozier, Marble Deacon

“I used to sit next to my mother and grandmother at Marble, who were moved to tears by the music. We would often talk about the music as a vital part of our spiritual journeys and, well, now I am the one moved to tears!”

– Marcie Doll, Marble Elder
THE MARBLE ORGAN PROJECT
*A Redesigned, Revoiced and Expanded Pipe Organ*

As the significance of music in the life of Marble’s worshipping community has grown, our pipe organ has not kept pace. Its persistent problems have been addressed by frequent repairs – often costly ones – simply to keep it functioning (see photos of damage at left.) And the thin, piercing sounds of its upper registers gave it a shrill quality that was jarring to the ear.

Not only will our new pipe organ be technologically state-of-the-art, it will sound fuller, warmer, and richer in tone. Many of our old pipes will be “revoiced” to create this improved tone, and the addition of pipes from the old Middle Collegiate organ will create a surround-sound feel by adding a new division to the front of the church, behind the chancel screens. Two beautiful new organ cases will flank the chancel, reflecting our historic architecture. Each pipe in the new organ cases will “speak” – no more façade pipes wasting precious space making no sound. The appearance of the rear gallery organ will not change, but the organ chamber itself, which sits in the Bell Tower, will be significantly enlarged, housing the majority of Marble’s 95 ranks of pipes. A new, elegantly crafted and state-of-the-art 4-manual console will serve as the centerpiece of the choir loft.

**TIMELINE**

*Summer, 2014:* New chancel organ built offsite in the Glück Pipe Organs shop.

*Fall, 2014:* Installation of new chancel organ, including new organ cases.

*Winter, 2014:* New gallery organ built offsite, installation begins in choir loft.

*Spring, 2015:* Installation of new pipe organ console and relocation of electronic organ to the Concourse Chapel.

*2015-2016 Season:* Unveiling of Marble’s magnificent new pipe organ through a thrilling series of concerts and special events.
Following years of dreaming and planning, Marble is fortunate to have engaged one of the most gifted organ builders of his generation: Sebastian Glück. Founded in 1985, Glück Pipe Organs has a sterling reputation for the highest craftsmanship in organbuilding. Major installations span the country and include both the mammoth Temple Emanu-El organ and two organs at First Presbyterian Church here in New York City. Having served as our organ curator for over a decade, Sebastian understands the inherent shortcomings of our previous pipe organ, as well as our sanctuary’s unique acoustical challenges and, until now, untapped potential. He plans to create a monumental new pipe organ that will enhance Marble’s music ministry for the next century.

“As an architect, organist, and organbuilder, I have for decades borne the desire to solve the acoustical and spatial challenges of Marble’s landmark sanctuary. During the dozen years I have served as curator of Marble’s instrument, I have met such challenges for churches across the nation. New pipe organs for Marble, front and back, will fulfill the dreams and match the capabilities of an artist and musician of Ken Dake’s caliber, enabling him to realize his vision for Marble’s music ministry.”

– Sebastian Glück, Glück Pipe Organs

“Sacred music has always been my connection to the spiritual realm, especially after having been blessed with experiencing the divinely inspired improvisations of Marcel DuPré while sitting beside him on the organ bench in the church of St. Sulpice, Paris. Marble will soon be gifted with an instrument that lifts us to such spiritual heights!”

– Clair Zak, Marble Elder Emeritus, Alto, Festival of Voices

“Marble has a long and storied ministry, and we, as congregants, are the beneficiaries of those who have come before us. It is now our moment, as stewards, to contribute to the excellence of Marble’s music which is such an important part of this special ministry.”

– John Rorer, Marble Elder
1854: Marble Collegiate Church opens with a mechanical organ built by H. Erben, the most prestigious organ builder at that time.

1891: Marble gets electricity. Our organ is the first in New York City to change from bellows to electro-pneumatic action. The organ is also enlarged, moved to the chancel with the choir, and pipe cases are installed on the chancel sides.

1925: The organ is rebuilt by the famous Skinner Organ Company of Boston.

1937: The Austin Organ Company of Hartford, CT rebuilds and enlarges the entire instrument, including new wind chests and a new console.


2001: Glück Pipe Organs of New York City assumes curatorship and oversees the service of the Marble organ.

2008: Once again, the organ requires immediate care. Conversations begin about renovation, and pipes from Middle Collegiate’s organ are salvaged for future use.

2011: Pipes are removed and a temporary electronic organ is installed.

2013: Marble’s Board votes to proceed with redesigning, rebuilding and expanding the Marble organ under the leadership of Sebastian Glück of Glück Organs.
Marble Collegiate Church’s impressive legacy reaches back to its founding in the 1600s and to 1854 when its landmarked building was erected. For decades, Marble’s ministry of Welcome and Love, has been creating Hope and Possibilities for diverse people across our city and nation, and around the world. Past generations have ensured the preservation of this legacy.

Now, over the last few years, this generation has been preparing Marble – both its ministry and its building – for those to come! New initiatives in worship and virtual presence, outreach and mission, are helping us to chart a course toward the future God has for us. And since 2011, the Sanctuary has been renovated; a new Concourse Level with its Labyrinth Room, New Chapel and New Columbarium has been constructed; and a new entrance from 29th Street will soon be complete. Each of these improvements is creating a renewed sacred space for generations to come!

During renovations, Marble’s storied pipe organ was removed for safe storage and a temporary electronic organ was installed. Now, as these renovations come to a close, we have the perfect opportunity to move forward our dreams for an enhanced Marble pipe organ, the heart and soul of its Spirit-filled music ministry!

Generous bequests from long-time Marble Board members, Dwight D. Rangeler and Susan L. Fischer, provided substantial seed money that allowed Marble’s Board to seize this opportunity.

If you’d like more information about the Marble Pipe Organ Project or about opportunities to leave your own legacy, please contact Rev. Shari K. Brink, Minister for Strategic Advancement. Call 212-686-2770 ext. 210, or e-mail SBrink@MarbleChurch.org.
The Marble Pipe Organ Project Steering Group:
Meg Armstrong, Guirlaine Belizaire, Marcie Doll, Greg Lozier, Sheila Moses, John Rorer, Larry Schafer, Clair Zak

Kenneth V. Dake, Director of Music
Rev. Shari K. Brink, Minister for Strategic Advancement
T.J. Houlihan, Development Manager
Robert Romagnoli, Graphic Design

For more information visit:
www.marblechurch.org/worship/music/pipe-organ-project
The Marble Pipe Organ Project

Following years of dreaming and planning, a redesigned, revoiced and expanded Sanctuary pipe organ is at last being realized. The time has come for an instrument that equals the greatness of Marble’s singing congregation! Generous bequests from long-time Marble members Dwight D. Rangeler and Susan L. Fischer provided substantial seed money to begin this project. Their legacies will live on through an enhanced pipe organ, the heart and soul of our Spirit-filled music ministry that touches each person who steps through the Sanctuary doors.

Susan L. Fischer

Participation in a religious community was not part of Susan’s life growing up, but when a hospital chaplain suggested she visit Marble Church she came and stayed, leaving an indelible mark by serving in leadership for the Women’s Ministry, Action Committee, Board of Elders and Deacons, the Collegiate Consistory and Intersections International. Susan brought faith, compassion, intelligence, honesty, and a gift for building bridges of understanding, thus furthering the ministry of her spiritual home. Though she lived with the threat of cancer, she never made that the center of her life. Family and friends, her faith, and her church were always first and foremost – she lived by her mantra “expect miracles.” A close friend has likened Susan to music, “…orderly, balanced and precise, yet with a heart and soul full of joy and love.”

Dwight D. Rangeler

Dwight first visited Marble Church in the 1950’s, during the Norman Vincent Peale years, and in due course became a member of the Board of Elders and Deacons serving as Church Master when Marble cleaned the building’s exterior in 1999, an enormous project that he shepherded with intelligence and his unique sense of humor. Dwight also served on the Stained Glass Window Committee, helped form the GIFTS LGBT Fellowship, and as a member of the search committee was instrumental in hiring Kenneth Dake as Director of Music in 1995. For Dwight, music was one of life’s great joys and it was his wish that his bequest to Marble go toward its Music Ministry. Dieter Killinger, Dwight’s partner of 41 years, comments, “I know that this is exactly how Dwight would want his gift to be used. I feel close to him every time I sit in the balcony—close to the choir and organ that meant so much to him.”
“...God gave us music that we might pray without words.”

— quote from the wall of a German opera house

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<th>Budget for the Pipe Organ Project</th>
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<tr>
<td>Organ Contract</td>
<td>$1,235,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Related costs: redesign of audio-visual and lighting systems</td>
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<td>Inaugural concert series</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL BUDGET</strong></td>
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<th>Gifts received as of January 15, 2015</th>
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<td>Realized bequests from Susan L. Fischer and Dwight D. Rangeler</td>
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<td>Other outright gifts received</td>
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<td><strong>Funds still to be raised</strong></td>
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To learn about opportunities to leave your own legacy and support this project, visit www.marblechurch.org/worship/music/pipe-organ-project or contact Rev. Shari K. Brink at 212-686-2770 or SBrink@MarbleChurch.org

The Marble Pipe Organ Project Steering Group
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