

THE HARRISON STORY

THOMAS HARRISON started his own business in Rochdale in 1861, and moved to Durham in 1872. Thomas's sons took over in 1896, with Harry designing the organs, and Arthur becoming a voicer of legendary vision and perfectionism. Arthur died in 1936, and Harry retired shortly after the War, leaving the firm in the hands of his son Cuthbert. Mark Venning succeeded Cuthbert Harrison as Managing Director in 1975. He is a past President of the International Society of Organbuilders. Andrew Scott became Managing Director in 2022.

EVOLUTION. Our early organs all had tracker action, and many are still in excellent working order a century later. The main principles of our work have not changed in 150 years, but our techniques have evolved, and modern methods of construction have been introduced. We now use bone instead of ivory for keyboards, and electric blowers instead of choirboys for the wind; and our slider chests make allowance for well-heated churches. The firm moved in 1996 to a purpose-built workshop. It is designed around a courtyard allowing natural light for all, and the atmosphere is informal and friendly.

NEW ORGANS. Arthur Harrison would still recognise the colourful and exquisitely-blended sound of a modern Harrison organ. H&H are known for large and distinguished instruments with electro-pneumatic action, and also for excellent organs with tracker action. Even in a busy city church an H&H organ will last many years before needing any significant work. Our 15-year guarantee is just the beginning.

DESIGN work starts with the voicer: the sound of an H&H organ goes hand-in-hand with a good layout. CAD is well established as one of our tools, much appreciated by the designers. Pipes, mechanism, casework and carving are made in our workshop. The firm trains its own craftsmen, many from school-leaving age. An awareness of international trends and techniques has been augmented by interaction with craftsmen from other European countries.

RESTORATION. Our consistently high standards have made us a natural choice for a series of high-profile restorations. The aims of the original builder are of first importance. Restoration can be full of surprises as we rediscover the inventiveness of earlier generations of master organbuilders. We delight in giving new life to historic instruments, both large and small, and restoring the mechanism to work as originally intended. We are specialists in the unusual and highly complex art of pneumatic restoration. We never lose interest in any organ we have built or restored.

2023

HARRISON & HARRISON

MAKERS AND RESTORERS OF FINE ORGANS



Enquiries are welcome for new organs of all sizes as well as for restoration and repairs
We offer tuning and maintenance services throughout Great Britain



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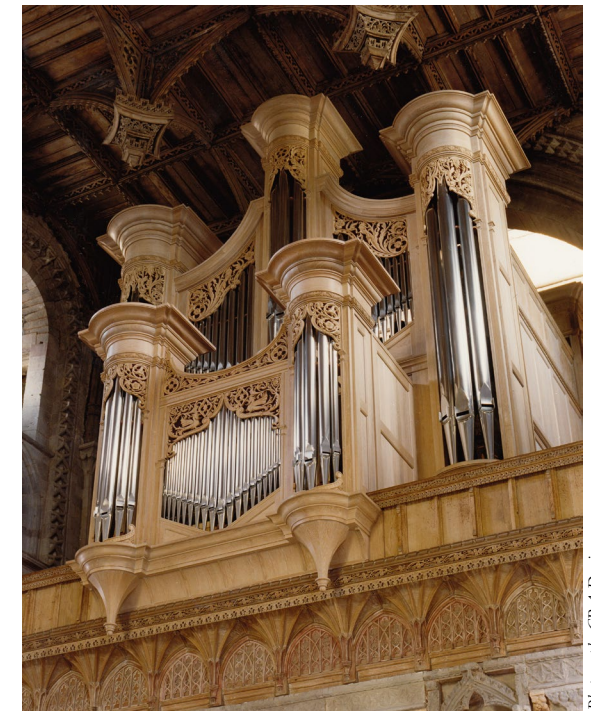
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HARRISON & HARRISON ORGAN BUILDERS



Photograph: CRA Davis

Some notable Harrison organs

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Abingdon, St Helen III/25 (<i>pneumatic restoration</i>) | 1927, 2005 |
| Belfast, St Anne's Cathedral IV/70 | 1907, 1975 |
| Bristol Beacon, (formerly Colston Hall) IV/94 | 1956 |
| Bristol, Clifton College IV/46 | 1911, 1977* |
| Bristol, St Mary Redcliffe IV/71 | 1912, 1947, 2010 |
| Cambridge, King's College IV/79 | 1934, 1968, 2016 |
| Cheltenham College III/43 | 1930, 1976* |
| Coventry Cathedral IV/74 | 1962* |
| Croydon Minster (Hill 1869) IV/58 | 1969* |
| Dumfries, St John III/37 | 1938, 2008 |
| Dundee, Caird Hall III/50 (<i>pneumatic restoration</i>) | 1923, 1992 |
| Durham Cathedral (Willis 1877) IV/98 | 1905/35, 1970* |
| Edinburgh, St Mary's Cathedral (Willis 1879) IV/58 | 1931, 1959* |
| Ely Cathedral IV/80 | 1908, 1975, 2000 |
| Exeter Cathedral IV/69 | 1933, 1965, 2014 |
| Gosforth, All Saints III/37 (<i>pneumatic restoration</i>) | 1929, 1994 |
| Harrow School Speech Room IV/72 | 1955 |
| Hereford Cathedral (Willis 1892) IV/67 | 1978* |
| Leicester Cathedral IV/50 | 1930, 2003 |
| Lincoln Cathedral (Willis 1898) IV/64 | 1960* |
| London, All Saints, Margaret Street IV/63 | 1910, 1957, 2002 |
| London, St James, Muswell Hill III/55 | 1955, 2011 |
| London, Royal Festival Hall IV/103 | 1954, 2014 |
| London, St Clement Danes III/38 | 1958* |
| London, Temple Church (built for Glen Tanar: 1924) IV/62 | 1954, 2013 |
| London, All Saints, Tooting Graveney III/41 | 1907* |
| London, Westminster Abbey V/109 | 1937, 1987 |
| Oxford, Balliol College Chapel III/24 | 1938* |
| Repton School III/35 | 1929* |
| Ripon Cathedral (Lewis 1878) IV/59 | 1926, 1963* |
| St Albans Cathedral IV/63 | 1962, 2009 |
| Wellington College III/40 | 1921, 1981* |
| West Ham Parish Church II/21 | 1986 |
| Winchester Cathedral (Willis 1854/97) IV/79 | 1938, 1988 |
| Windsor Castle, St George's Chapel IV/72 | 1965* |
| Nigeria, St John's Church, Aroloya, Lagos, III/48 | 1985 |
| Japan, Holy Trinity Church, Tokyo II/13 | 1980, 1992 |
| U.S.A., Emmanuel Church, Chestertown, MD II/23 | 1993 |
| U.S.A., Christ Church, Grosse Pointe, MI III/49 | 2001 |
| U.S.A., Church of the Holy Spirit, Lake Forest, IL III/47 (based on the 1972 Harrison organ) | 1995 |
| U.S.A., Trinity Episcopal Church, Vero Beach, FL III/41 (moved to new church 2005) | 1997 |

Most of these organs are still in our care. Earlier organs marked with * have been restored by us in subsequent years without major alteration.

More recent Harrison organs

Mechanical action

Chamber organs for Ely Cathedral, Ripon Cathedral and others
Practice organs (II/5) for James Lancelot, Nottingham High School, Christopher Storr, Mark Venning
Bedford, St Andrew's Church (2016: II/22)
Douglas, IoM, St George's Church (2003: II/22)
Edington Priory, Wiltshire (2014: II/26)
Glenalmond College, Perth (2007: II/26)
Leighton Buzzard Parish Church (1989: III/35)
Twickenham Parish Church (1996: II/20)
Twyford Parish Church, Hampshire (2006: II/18, in the spirit of the 1867 Walker organ)
Winchester College, Fromond's Chantry (2005: II/6)
Windsor Castle, The Private Chapel (1997: I/6)

Denmark, St Alban's Church, Copenhagen (2005: II/21, including 7 stops from 1887 Walker organ)
Norway, Hakadal Kirke (2015: II/17)
South Korea, Seoul Cathedral (1985/2006: II/20)
U.S.A., Church of the Good Shepherd, Rocky Mount, NC (1998: II/22)

Electro-pneumatic action

Bury St Edmunds, St Edmundsbury Cathedral (2010: IV/59, including 36 stops from old organ)
Canterbury Cathedral (2020: IV/89, including 1886 Willis pipework)
Cirencester Parish Church (2009: IV/63, including 30 Willis stops from old organ)
Glasgow University Memorial Chapel (2005: III/48, including 30 stops from 1928 Willis organ)
London, Holy Trinity, Sloane Street (2012: IV/71, based on pipework by JW Walker, 1891/1934)
London, Westminster Central Hall (2011: IV/66, based on Hill pipework of 1912)
St Davids Cathedral, Pembrokeshire (2000: IV/54, including 31 stops from 1883 Willis organ)
York Minster (2020: IV/82, based on the H&H tonal structure of 1931)

Norway, Frogner Kirke (2017: III/53, (including 33 stops from 1899 Nilsen organ)
U.S.A., Christ Church, Alexandria, VA
U.S.A., Front Street United Methodist Church, Burlington, NC (2002: III/55)
U.S.A., St James's Episcopal Church, Hendersonville, NC (1999: III/44)
U.S.A., Christ Church, Greenwich, CT
U.S.A., Hope United Church of Christ, St Louis, MO (2002: II/33)

Some organs rebuilt or restored

Armley, St Bartholomew (2004: restoration of 1869 Schulze organ, pneumatic action, IV/57)
Bradford on Avon, Holy Trinity Church (2017: rebuild of 1926 Willis organ)
Cambridge, Queens' College (2002: restoration of 1892 Binns organ, III/32)
Colchester Town Hall, The Moot Hall (2015: restoration of 1902 Norman & Beard organ, pneumatic, III/30)
Edinburgh, Usher Hall (2003: restoration of 1914 Norman & Beard organ, IV/63)
Glasgow, Cottier Theatre (formerly Downhill U.P. Church) (2017: Willis 1876; restoration, re-creation of Barker machine, III/31)
Glasgow, St Bride's Church, Kelvinside (2018: restoration of 1865 Hill organ, II/19)
Lichfield Cathedral (2000: reconstruction of 1884/1908 Hill organ, IV/82)
London, Freemasons' Hall, The Grand Temple (2015: restoration and enlargement of 1933 Willis organ, III/50)
London, Hampton Court Palace, The Chapel Royal (2013: Hill 1899; new actions and restoration of tonal scheme, III/33)
London, Southwark Cathedral (1991: restoration of 1897 Lewis organ, IV/61)
London, Union Chapel, Islington (2013: restoration of 1877 Willis organ, III/37)
London, Westminster Cathedral
Grand Organ (1984/96: Willis 1922-32, IV/78)
Apse Organ (1984: Lewis 1906, II/21)
Nottingham, Albert Hall (1993: restoration of 1909 Binns organ, pneumatic action, IV/59)
Oxford, Wadham College (2015: restoration of 1862 Willis organ, II/18)
Paisley Abbey (2010: rebuild of 1968 Walker organ, IV/67)
Peterborough Cathedral (1981, 2004: Hill 1868 and 1894, IV/89)
Reading Town Hall (1999: restoration of 1864/1882 Willis organ, IV/37)
Salisbury Cathedral (1978/93, 2020: restoration of 1877 Willis organ, IV/65)
Titchmarsh, Northants, St Mary The Virgin (2016: restoration of 1870 Lewis organ, II/17)
Australia, St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne (1990: restoration of 1890 Lewis organ, IV/53)
Australia, St Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide (2018: restoration of 1929 Hill Norman & Beard organ, IV/53)
Kenya, Pembroke House School (2015: rebuild of 1906 H&H organ, II/12)
South Africa, St Dunstan's Cathedral, Benoni (2018: rebuild of 1970 Ganser organ, III/34)
Sweden, Stockholm City Hall (2008: rebuild of 1925 Walcker organ, V/135)