



1987 McMannis Pipe Organ III/43

Prepared for: Council Jan. 18,2011 • Prepared by: Kevin Padworski, Director of Music and Organist

Summary

Proposal

Calvary Baptist Church of Denver seeks to purchase and plan to install the 1987 McMannis III/43 pipe organ from University Hills Baptist Church in order to continue the tradition and standard of excellence of good organ music and musicians within our congregational and denominational traditions.

Solution

Calvary currently owns and operates a 1972 McMannis pipe organ (III/30) which was contracted to be installed by Charles McMannis in 1971. While organs are meant to last for many generations, their life span is dependent on many variables. One significant variable is the level of maintenance and care given to the instrument. As Calvary's McMannis approaches its 40th birthday, there are a couple of significant 'signs of age' that have been developing that now create the need to act toward a solution:

- The electro-pneumatic action (Solid State Logic) is beginning to wear. As with most electronics developed 40 years ago, the wiring, contacts, response, and mere cleanliness have become cumbersome and sometimes unresponsive
- Most organs experience a releathering process every 30-50 years. This maintenance depends on the builder and materials used in making the instrument. Our instrument is no exception to this reality.

In addition to these significant ‘signs of age,’ there are various characteristics of the organ that do not meet the standard of typical, historic pipe organs or a standard of excellence expected by trained musicians.

- There are numerous approaches to building pipes organs based upon historic design, but nearly all designs are expected to have the following in order to be efficient for worship and performance
 - Exposed great division complete with a principal chorus scaled appropriately to its space
 - A memory-level system that allows for ample registration and simple use by many musicians
 - A console that is approachable and suitable for worship and performance environments (while this factor remains fairly aesthetic, Calvary is no stranger to how aesthetics can attract or detract)
 - Ranks and scaling appropriate for the space

Unfortunately, Calvary’s pipe organ does not have the previously listed expectations.

Numbers

Estimated Cost(s) for Current Instrument

These estimates are based upon past documents from former organists at Calvary as well as current communications with local and national organ builders within the past 6 months:

Description	Cost
Releathering	\$30,000-\$50,000
New action or updates to current action/memory levels	\$25,000+
Modifications to console	\$75,000+
Modifications to pipes (scaling and layout)	\$60,000+
Total	\$190,000+

Estimated Cost(s) for a New Pipe Organ Contract

These estimates are based upon current cost per rank, console construction, and labor. This would be an absolute minimum cost (regardless of the size or builder) and figures often reach or exceed \$500K:

Description	Cost
New pipe organ (with appropriate ranks, scaling, action, and console)	\$300,000+
Total	\$300,000+

Estimated Cost(s) for the Purchase and Install of the UHills Organ

These estimates are based upon current communications with local and national organ builders:

Description	Cost
Proposed bid for purchase	\$5,000.00
Removal and storage	\$20,000.00
	\$25,000.00
Re-visioning and installation	\$150,000.00
Total	\$175,000.00

Schedule

Date	Task
January 18, 2011	Vote on the purchase of the UHills 1987 McManis III/43 pipe organ
January 18, 2011	Offer a bid of \$5,000 to UHills for the purchase of the instrument
February	Contract an organ builder to remove and properly store the organ Calvary has enough room to store it on-site
February 2011- ?	Begin the re-visioning process and determine a time over the next few years when to move forward with the installation of Calvary's new instrument