

## OUR ORGAN RESTORATION TEAM

**RICHARD HAMAR** has been engaged in organ building since 1960 when he apprenticed 3 1/2 years with the firm of Rudolf von Beckerath in Hamburg, Germany. Upon successful completion of this he worked for Akerman and Lund in Knivsta, Sweden. Returning to the US in 1964 he worked briefly with Austin Organs, Inc. and the late Richard Geddes in Winsted, CT. In 1968 he established himself as an independent builder specializing in mechanical action organs and restorations, especially nineteenth century American organs. He has been a resident of the city of Norwich, CT, for the past thirty-five years and has done work throughout the United States. Presently he is also organist at St. Matthias Anglican Church at Old Mystic Village in Stonington, CT. He has been a friend of Dana Hull and Barbara Owen for many years and has been delighted to help them and the Reformed Church of Katsbaan with this successful restoration project.

**DANA HULL** has a degree in organ from Bowling Green State University (Ohio) as well as a master's from the University of Michigan. She is past president of the Organ Historical Society, and is a member of the American Guild of Organists. For twenty-five years Dana maintained her own business of organ restoration. Although now retired, she is still active in playing the organ and presently is organist and director at St. John's Episcopal Church in Westland, Michigan.

**BARBARA OWEN** holds music degrees from Westminster Choir College and Boston University, is an active member of the American Guild of Organists and a past President of the Organ Historical Society. She served as Music Director of First Church in Newburyport, MA for 38 years, is currently interim organist at St. John's Church in Lowell, MA, and once worked for the organ building firm of C. B. Fisk, Inc. The endlessly fascinating history of the organ and its music has led to researching and writing of books and articles on these subjects, and the editing of some volumes of organ music.



## *HISTORIC PIPE ORGAN DEDICATION SERVICE KATSBAAN REFORMED CHURCH SAUGERTIES, NEW YORK*



**KATSBAAN REFORMED CHURCH  
HISTORIC PIPE ORGAN DEDICATION SERVICE  
NOVEMBER 6, 2014 ~ 7:00PM  
James C. Alley, Pastor**

(Please turn cell phones off)  
(\* If you are able to, please stand)

**PRELUDE** Dana Hull  
Nearer, my God, to Thee Walter Hewitt (19<sup>th</sup> Century)

**WELCOME** Pastor James Alley

**RESPONSIVE READING** (Response in **bold**)

Lift us on wings of melody.  
**Carry us into the depth of touching truth beyond words.**  
Abide with us as we join hands with the saints of every time and place.  
**For it is You, Eternal God, who gives us life and breath.**  
You make our hearts sing.  
**Glory, thanks and praise to You from whom all blessings flow!**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Psalm 150:1-6 (in unison)

Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty expanse. Praise Him for His mighty deeds; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness. Praise Him with trumpet sound; Praise Him with harp and lyre. Praise Him with timbrel and dancing; Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipe. Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!

**THOUGHTS FROM RICHARD HAMAR, DANA HULL & BARBARA OWEN**

**THE DEDICATION OF THE ORGAN** (Response in **bold**) Janice Trevail

O God, whom generations have worshiped with sweet song,  
**We offer this organ to Your service and glory.**

frame. The church was growing, and had built a large new building in 1852, into which they had at first moved a small organ from the previous building, but it must have eventually required something larger. At that time the Erben was provided with an extra outer case that matched the church's woodwork but also probably muffled the sound somewhat.

What we do know for certain is that the Saugerties church replaced the Erben with a new organ from the Roosevelt firm of New York in 1892 and some of Roosevelt's workmen moved it to Katsbaan. Some large pedal pipes were also added. During restoration, the extra casework and pedal pipes were removed to allow better egress of sound and access for tuning. The original attractive exterior case has been repaired and refinished by Gene Trevail and parishioners, and the original functional front pipes repaired by Richard Hamar, who also carried out the major part of action and interior pipe renovation. If, as we believe, this organ was originally Strong's "Goliath," it can be said that it now looks and sounds much as it would have in Strong's long gone Manhattan residence. Because of its historic significance, this unique organ received an Organ Historical Society citation plaque in 1989.

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**The compass of the keyboards** on the Katsbaan organ is from a low G to a high F, with no low G# (standard practice in a G compass organ).

**The pedalboard compass** is from low G (includes the G#) to a C.

**The stop list:** Great: Open Diapason Stopped Diapason  
Principal Fifteenth  
Sesquialtera Copula (coupler)  
Cremona

Choir: Dulciana Flute Copula (coupler)

Swell: Open Diapason Cornet  
Trumpet Principal

Pedal: Coupled to Great Manual

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE KATSBAAN ORGAN

The late Dr. John Ogasapian believed that the Katsbaan Pipe Organ was the oldest extant three-manual organ in North America. It was featured in his article in *The Keraulophon* in October of 1989 where he described this organ as "having a superb tone and a gentle 18th century English sound, even in its present unrestored condition." While this organ has now been restored to its original condition and appearance, much care has been taken to preserve its unique tonal qualities.

Early opinions of this organ in the 1980s suggested that it was built in the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and was the work of the noted New York builder, Henry Erben. Later assessment of structural and tonal characteristics by the three people involved in its ongoing restoration work, along with archival work by Stephen Pinel and others, all tends to confirm this. Although some sources said that it may have come a Reformed Church in New York City, and several Reformed churches once did have Erben organs, Stephen's research proved that an organ such as this could not have been one of them. In addition, its many unique characteristics strongly suggest that it was not initially designed as a church organ at all. Support for this came later, with the discovery in the archives of the New York Historical Society of the diaries of New York lawyer and music lover, George Templeton Strong (1820-1875). From these, musicologist Vera Brodsky Lawrence extracted a great many references to music, which were published as *Strong on Music* in three volumes, covering the years 1836-1862. In these we find a wealth of information concerning a house organ that Strong commissioned from Erben in 1840 (which he called "Goliath" because it took up a lot of room in his parlor) and these references all point strikingly to the unique characteristics of the Katsbaan organ, not seen in any other organ of the period. There could hardly have ever been two organs that would fit this description.

Vera Lawrence died before completing the fourth volume, but the third one notes that the organ was still in use in 1862. So if it was later removed from the house by Strong (or his heirs), it would presumably have been after 1862, or perhaps after Strong's death. Although no exact date has been found, it has been said that the organ now in Katsbaan had been acquired sometime in the 1860s by the Reformed Church in nearby Saugerties, which would fit in this time

We thank all whose labor made the building and restoration of this instrument possible.

**The loggers who cut the trees in the forest,**

The miners who brought the ore from the depths of the earth,

**The carpenters and metal workers who crafted and forged these pipes for praise,**

And the artists who tuned them to make beautiful music.

**We are thankful for them all, and for psalmists, composers, singers and players of instruments.**

Bless them in their labors of art and imagination, craft and vision.

**Generous God, we praise you for nurturing in us a spirit of abundant giving,**

Enabling this congregation to build and rebuild this house of worship,

**This sacred space where we worship You, and meet one another, and where we now celebrate this historic organ.**

Here, heaven touches the earth.

**Here, we are centered in Christ.**

We pray that you will raise up future generations who will find in this organ a joyful instrument through which they can express the mysteries of Your presence and love.

**Holy God, we offer this organ to Your honor and praise. Guide us to serve You and walk in the steps of Jesus Christ, our Savior, to whom, and with You and the Holy Spirit be glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Pastor James Alley

**Dana Hull**

- Variations on Adeste Fideles.....Raynor Taylor (1747-1825)
- Ah, Holy Jesus.....Norberto Guinaldo (1937- )
- Fugue in B minor.....Samuel Wesley (1766-1837)
- Blessed Are Ye, Faithful Souls.....Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

**Barbara Owen**

- The Combat between David & Goliath  
(from Biblical Sonata #1).....Johann Kuhnau (1735-1805)
- Pastoral.....Domenico Zipoli (1688-1726)
- Nun Danket Alle Gott.....G. F. Kauffmann (1679-1735)
- Carol on "Simple Gifts".....Charles Callahan (1951 - )
- March.....James Marsh (1752-1828)

\* **HYMN:** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" Barbara Owen  
(Poem: Henry Van Dyke; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven)

\* **BENEDICTION** Pastor James Alley

**POSTLUDE** Barbara Owen  
Offertorio Domenico Zipoli (1688-1726)

*Please join us for fellowship and refreshments  
in our church hall across the street!*

**"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"**

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
drive the dark of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
well-spring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus  
which the morning stars began;  
love divine is reigning o'er us,  
binding all within its span.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us sunward,  
in the triumph song of life.