

The Kimball Organ

Dedicated Easter, 1931 - Removed July 26, 1967



The only known photograph of the Kimball console, shown in 1957. This was the largest organ in Nebraska until the mid to late 1950's.



This photo shows the nave at First Plymouth as it was originally built, with the six grills covering the organ chambers. It is unknown at this writing which division of the organ was placed in which chamber. The Echo division was placed in a vault in the ceiling.

The new Lied organ will have most of its Pedal division installed in the West chamber (left) and the Solo and Celestial divisions installed in the east chamber (right). See the page on the Lied organ chambers.

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Brief History

It is apparent from correspondence between First Plymouth and the Kimball Co. in late 1931 and early 1932 that the organ chambers as built (see the East & West Chancel organ chambers for the Lied Organ) had no provision for heat. To keep a tolerable pitch, the church was heating the chambers electrically, seven days a week. Concerned about the high cost of this approach, the church asked the Kimball Co. for their opinion. They indicated that turning the electric heaters on for two - three hours before using the organ would be sufficient for the pipework to be in tune at the time of use. They also indicated that another low cost alternative would be to place steam radiators, deriving their steam from the office steam pipes, in the chambers. In either case, they indicated that the wide temperature variations would cause no harm to the organ over time, another concern of the church. While exploring these chambers recently, the page maintainer observed a small steam radiator in each chamber, so this approach is evidently what was chosen at some point in time.

It is interesting to note that the Echo division was placed in a chamber in the ceiling of the church nave. This vault evidently had no provision for heat, relying instead on the principal that hot air rises.

Over time, this inadequate climate control began to take a toll on the organ. Service records on this instrument indicate that by 1950, several sets of pipes needed to be revoiced and reconditioned, plus other related mechanical repairs. This same contract also called for the removal of the 8' Tuba Mirabilis pipes and replacement with a new 4' Clarion in the Solo division. It will be noticed in the stop list that this division already had a 4' Clarion; chances are that along with the Tuba Mirabilis, it was non-functional by this time, so to conserve money just the 4' Clarion was replaced. This service and reconditioning work was performed by the Reuter Organ Co. of Lawrence, Kansas.

By the mid 1950's, the organist's column in *The First Plymouth Herald* (the church's weekly bulletin) occasionally addressed what appears to have been an oft recurring question, "Why do I play so loud"? The main reason was that by this time, 25% - 30% of the organ was unusable because of irreparable deterioration of the pipes, chests, ductwork, expression mechanisms and so forth. Also, more than a third of the remaining usable organ could not be kept in even tolerable tune and was thus useless also. What remained was mostly the "loud stops". The organist also explained that the placement of the pipework was such that the sound of the organ reached the congregation before the choir at the front of the apse and again what remained usable was the "loud stops" in the chambers that opened east and west.

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Stoplist & Specifications

The Stop List which follows is from the final purchase agreement between First Plymouth and the W. W. Kimball Organ Co., Chicago, Ill. on June 11, 1930. Several revisions to the specifications were made until Spring of 1930. No other changes appear in the archives after 6/11/30; this is believed to be an accurate representation of the instrument as installed. Installation began in January of 1931. This document was scanned and no attempt has been made to correct the omission of line numbers or inconsistent spellings.

“6/11/30

CERTIFICATE

At a regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the First Plymouth Congregational Church of Lincoln, Nebraska held at the Chamber of Commerce Wednesday noon, June 11, 12:15 P. M. the following trustees were present: C. P. Russell, C. Petrus Peterson, Landy Clark, Howard S. Wilson, Arthur A. Dobson, Phil Hardy, and Max Meyer. After a discussion, it was moved by Mr. Dobson seconded by Mr. Hardy, that the President and secretary of the board of trustees be authorized to sign a contract with the Kimball Company of Chicago for an organ to cost \$30,000 installed. The motion was carried unanimously.”

(signed) Helen G. Erb, Clerk
Specification # 52330

GREAT ORGAN

1.	Open Diapason	16' metal	61 pipes
2.	First Open Diapason	8' metal	61 pipes
3.	Second Open Diapason	8' metal	61 pipes
4.	Flute Harmonique	8' metal	61 pipes
5.	Clarabella	8' metal	61 pipes
6.	Octave	8' wood	61 pipes
7.	Flute	4' metal	61 pipes
8.	Mixture IV	metal	244 pipes
9.	Tromba	8' reeds	61 pipes
10.	Harp (Choir)	8'	61 notes
11.	Celesta (Choir)		61 notes
12.	Tremelo		
13.	Chimes (Choir)		25 notes

Echo Playable from Great

15.	Echo Flute	16' wood	61 notes
16.	Night Horn	8' wood	61 notes
17.	Vox Angelica	8' metal	61 notes
18.	Viol Aetheria	8' metal	61 notes
19.	Fern Flute	4' metal	61 notes
20.	Vox Humana	8' reeds	61 notes
21.	Vox Humana Vibrato		
22.	Echo Tremelo		

Echo Pedal

23.	Echo Bourdon	16' wood	32 notes
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SWELL ORGAN

24.	Leiblich Gedeckt	16' wood	73 pipes
25.	Open Diapason	8' metal	73 pipes
26.	Gedeckt	8' wood	73 pipes
27.	Salicional	8' metal	73 pipes
28.	Vox Celeste	8' metal	73 pipes
29.	Flute Celeste II ranks	8' metal	134 pipes
30.	Octave Geigen	4' metal	73 pipes

31.	Harmonic Flute	4' metal	73 pipes
32.	Flautino	2' metal	61 pipes
33.	Mixture IV	metal	244 pipes
34.	Contra Fagotto	16' reeds	61 pipes
35.	French Trumpet	8' reeds	73 pipes
36.	Oboe Horn	8' reeds	12 pipes
37.	Oboe Clarion	4' reeds	12 pipes
38.	Vox Humana	8' reeds	12 pipes
39.	Vox Humana Vibrato		
40.	Swell Tremelo		

Echo Playable from Choir

41.	Echo Flute	16' wood	61 pipes
42.	Night Horn	8' wood	12 pipes
43.	Vox Angelica	8' metal	61 pipes
44.	Voil Aetheria	8' metal	61 pipes
45.	Fern Flute	4' wood	12 pipes
46.	Vox Humana	8' reeds	61 pipes
47.	Echo Tremelo		
48.	Vox Humana Vibrato		

CHOIR ORGAN

49.	Contra Viol	16' metal	61 pipes
50.	English Diapason	8' metal	73 pipes
51.	Melodia	8' wood	73 pipes
52.	Viola	8' metal	12 pipes
53.	Dulciana	8' metal	73 pipes
54.	Unda Maris	8' metal	73 pipes
55.	Octave Viol	4' metal	12 pipes
56.	Flute d'Amour	4' metal	73 pipes
57.	Nazard	2 2/3' metal	61 pipes
58.	Piccolo	2' metal	61 pipes
59.	Tierce	1 3/5' metal	61 pipes
60.	English Horn	8' reeds	73 pipes
61.	Clarinet	8' reeds	73 pipes
62.	Harp (Deagan)	8'	49 bars
63.	Celeste	4'	49 notes
64.	Chimes (Class A)		12 bells
65.	Choir Tremelo		

SOLO ORGAN

66.	Clear Flute	8' wood	73 pipes
67.	Gamba	8' metal	73 pipes
68.	Gamba Celeste	8' metal	73 pipes
69.	Orchestral Flute	4' wood	73 pipes
70.	Double Trumpet	16' reeds	61 pipes
71.	Trumpet	8' reeds	12 pipes
72.	French Horn	8' reeds	73 pipes
73.	Tuba Mirabilis	8' reeds	73 pipes
74.	Clarion	4' reeds	12 pipes
75.	Solo Tremelo		

PEDAL ORGAN

76.	Resultant Bass	32' wood	32 notes
77.	First Open Diapason	16' wood	32 pipes
78.	Second Open Diapason (Great)	16' metal	32 notes
79.	Bourdon	16' wood	32 pipes
80.	Lieblich Gedeckt (Swell)	16' wood	32 notes
81.	Contra Viol (Choir)	16' metal	32 notes

82.	Octave	8' wood	12 pipes
83.	Bass Flute	8' wood	12 pipes
84.	Cello	8' metal	32 notes
85.	Still Gedeckt	8' wood	32 notes
86.	Flute	4' wood	32 notes
87.	Bombarde	32' reeds	32 pipes
88.	Trombone	16' reeds	12 pipes
89.	Trumpet (Solo)	16' reeds	32 notes
90.	Fagotto (Swell)	16' reeds	32 notes
91.	Tromba	8' reeds	12 pipes
92.	Clarion	4' reeds	12 pipes
93.	Chimes		25 notes

COMBINATIONS

Six toe pistons affecting Pedal stops
Six double touch pistons affecting Great stops
Eight double touch pistons affecting Swell stops
Six double touch pistons affecting Choir stops
Six double touch pistons affecting Solo stops
Three double touch pistons affecting Echo stops played on Great
Three double touch pistons affecting Echo stops played on Choir
Eight universal pistons affecting stops and couplers of entire organ
Seven cancel pistons affecting respective manual stops and couplers
General Cancel
Couplers Cancel

COUPLERS

Swell to Great Super	Swell to Swell Super
Swell to Great	Swell Unison off
Swell to Great Sub	Swell to Swell Sub
Choir to Great Super	Choir to Choir Super
Choir to Great	Choir unison off
Choir to Great Sub	Choir to Choir Sub
Solo to Great Super	Swell to Choir
Solo to Great	Choir to Swell
Solo to Great Sub	Solo to Swell
Great to Pedal	Solo to Solo Super
Swell to Pedal	Solo to Solo Sub
Choir to Pedal	Solo to Pedal

ACCESSORIES

Entire organ under expression
Balanced Crescendo Pedal affecting stops and unison couplers
Full organ Piston, Reversible
Full Organ Pedal, Reversible
Great to Pedal Reversible
Solo to Pedal Reversible
Swell Pedal Selector
Chimes sustaining Pedal
Chimes soft pedal
Chimes sustaining pedal indicator
Chimes soft pedal indicator
Harp sustaining bar on side of Choir expression pedal
Crescendo indicator
Full organ indicator
Action current indicator
Signal button
Signal light
Organ Bench"

All divisions were blown at an average of 10" w.c. but no records found to date indicate specifically a precise pressure(s) per division or rank.