

**South Norfolk Baptist Church Pipe Organ:
Henry Pilcher's Sons (1925, Opus 1262)**

Stop List and Description:

Swell

Oboe 8' Not actually an imitation of the orchestral instrument, more a soft trumpet with Oboe flavoring. A favorite English Swell organ stop.

Flute Harmonic 4' An open flute with treble pipe of double-length overblown to speak the octave. The stop is smooth and can be beautiful but blends badly with Principals. Copied by British builders from nineteenth-century French organs.

Vox Celeste 8' Derived from the old Italian Fiffaro stop, Celeste stops became common in the Swell organs of romantic instruments from about 1865. Characteristically they are of Salicional or soft Viola da Gamba tone and tuned very slightly sharp of the unison rank with which they are always drawn. The beats which results give a lush ethereal sound which helps to compensate for the lack of chorus effect when playing softly on a single stop. An essential component of the romantic organ.

Aeoline 8' A string tone, one of the quietest stops on the organ, and more edgy than the ore usual Salicional. Only found on romantic organs of the early twentieth century. An extremely soft stop with a very delicate, airy tone; built frequently as a single-rank stop, or as a double-rank *Aéoline céleste*

Salicional 8' An extremely common stop in English organs from 1865 to 1955. Normally found in the Swell organ, it is made and voiced much like a Dulciana, but is less gentle and has a long slot at the top of the pipe, giving it a hardness which counteracts emasculation of the tone by the swell-box. An 8' string stop; It is the most common stop used for the *Voix céleste* in combination with a second rank of salicionals tuned slightly sharp.

English Diapason 8' *English Diapason* is mentioned only by Irwin, who says: "The *English Diapason*, sometimes so labeled on a draw knob, inclines towards a silvery, ringing sound that must be head to be fully appreciated. It sometimes serves as the Choir Diapason."

Stopped Diapason 8' A particularly English stop characteristic of organs from 1660 to 1900 and again since 1950. The fairly wide scale is approximately an Open Diapason cut in half and stopped, with a low enough mouth to give a

definite third harmonic. Many are wooden. Blends very well with Diapason/Principal tone and can be used, like chips, with everything

Great

Open Diapason 8' The fundamental non-imitative sound of the organ; the sound made by an open pipe whose scale is neither wide nor narrow. Manual pipes are normally of metal. The case pipes of an organ are normally the bass pipes of the Open Diapason. Although the name is restricted to the fundamental pitch, the tone occurs in more pitches than any other, forming the Diapason Chorus. Just to confuse the unwary, an Open Diapason on the Pedal organ is not a Diapason in tone but a powerful open flute made of wood.

Melodia 8' A pure-toned open wood flute. Almost exclusively American.

Gambia 8' Shortening of Viola da Gamba; softer than a Diapason and narrower in scale to give more harmonic development. The nearest orchestral sound is that of a bowed string, hence the name. Unlike its use in the orchestra, this tone is not the foundation of the chorus and choruses of Violas are rare in the organ.

Dulciana 8' Similar in tone to an Open Diapason, but much softer and much narrower in scale. An almost exclusively British stop invented by Snetzler in the 18th century.

Flute D'Amour 4' A soft romantic flute at 4' pitch.

Pedal

Flute 8' These names have been used occasionally for flute stops with no particular distinguishing characteristic; they are most often encountered with some modifying term, e.g. Flauto Dolce, Spitzflöte, Harmonic Flute. When individual ranks first started to be separated from the Blockwerk of the medieval organ, these names were among the first to be used. The name *Flûte* was common in classical French organs, where it usually indicated an open 8' or 4' flute, but was occasionally used for a Bourdon. On theatre organs, the name *Flute* is usually an abbreviation for Concert Flute. While the literature lists *Flet* as a synonym for Gedeckt it is more likely a synonym for *Flute*.

Lieblich Gedeckt 16' Introduced by Edmund Schulze into Britain in 1851, this stop was widely copied for the next hundred years. It is a narrow-scale stopped flute, the flutiness arising, despite the narrow scale, from the very high arched mouth. Unsuitable for neo-classical organs.

Bourdon 16' The universal accompaniment 16ft bass tone of the smaller British organ and in the United States. A stopped flute pipe, general of wood, which gets its flutiness from a high-cut rather than a wide scale. Easy to voice, and if not too small, prompt in speech, blending surprisingly well with Diapasons of high pitch. It is less successful as an 8ft manual stop.