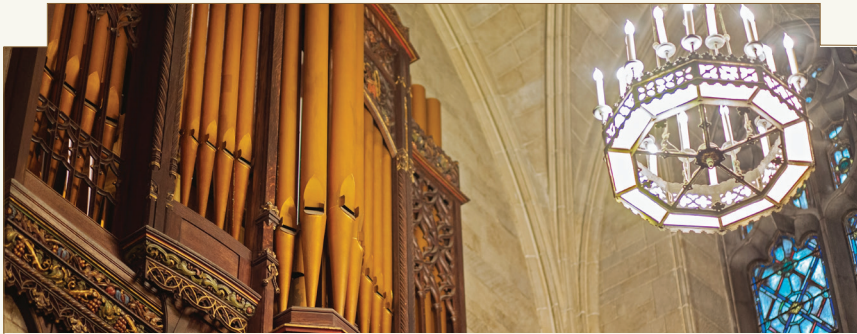




OUR COMMON, UNIFIED VOICE

Central's historically significant organ is in dire need of repair.





THE STORY

- With 10,000 feet of lumber and pipes that range from the size of a pencil to 16 feet high and 12 inches wide, Central's organ was one of the Möller Pipe Organ Company's finest instruments.
- Installed in 1950, the organ was immediately recognized as a success. With the best features of a classical and romantic organ, it has been played by many of the greatest organists of the 20th century, including Catharine Crozier, Virgil Fox, and Jean Langlais.
- Critics regarded the "fine brightness of the registration possibilities" of the organ and described that the "full organ tingled the spine without splitting the ears."
- Given this lavish praise heaped on it by musicians and critics, Central's organ clearly occupies a special place in the history of American organ building.



Jean and Jeanette Langlais at the console of Central Presbyterian Church, New York, 1952
Figure 35. (photograph by Morris Wehrman, New York Herald Tribune, 30 April 1952, 2)

THE NEED

- Despite having been built with the finest materials of its time, the perishable parts in Central's pipe organ have worn out and reached the end of their useful lives.
- With almost none of the instrument functioning, Central's organ can no longer be used to effectively lead or support a congregation.
- A full renovation could likely be completed for approximately \$1.5-2 million. Thankfully, more than 90% of the original pipework remains in excellent condition, and thus Central's organ is in a prime situation to return to its former glory as a truly unique example of its era.
- Once renovated, it would be the world's sole remaining example of a large Möller organ built within a decade of 1950. And it would not only significantly aid Central's Sunday worship services but also serve as an attraction and foundation for musical outreach and community engagement.

THE FUTURE

- Central has a long and rich history of excellent sacred music, and a renovated organ would help bring our music ministry to new heights.
- For centuries, the organ has served in liturgical functions, and after a full renovation, it will be able to continue this tradition for future generations.

Like Central itself, the organ can bring together diverse traditions and backgrounds into one common, unified voice.

If you'd like to help restore this remarkable instrument, please visit restorecentral.org/donate. Thank you for your support.



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