

# Lincoln Center

## Alice Tully Hall Organ Fact Sheet

### OVERVIEW

#### Description:

The Alice Tully Hall organ was a personal gift from Miss Alice Tully to the concert hall named for her. It is a universal organ suitable for all styles of music and it serves as an example of the highest quality in both design and technical systems. The free-standing organ, with its direct mechanical linkage from keys to pipes, is played from four independent manuals. The organ is designed and constructed both as a virtuoso instrument and with the capability of blending with an ensemble: chamber or full orchestra. Space for the organ was provided in the original plan for Alice Tully Hall.

The 4,192-pipe organ with 85 ranks distributed in 61 speaking stops was designed and built by Orgelbau Th. Kuhn of Männedorf, Switzerland. It was designed by Fredrich Jako, director of the firm, with stop-control and combination systems designed by consultant Lawrence Phelps. The visual design was by Jakob Schmidt of Lucerne, Switzerland. Built in 1974, the organ was inaugurated with a concert in Alice Tully Hall on April 13, 1975 by celebrated organist E. Power Biggs, who proclaimed "The Tully Hall instrument is built the way God intended organs to be built!" Other dedicatory concerts followed, including performances by Catharine Crozier, André Marchal, Leonard Raver, Karl Richter, and Thomas Schippers. Other organists who have performed on the instrument over the years include Pierre Cochereau, Guy Bovet, Dame Gillian Weir (who gave the first *Mostly Mozart* organ recital in 1997), and Christopher Herrick (who performed the complete organ works of Bach at *Lincoln Center Festival* 1998). During the 1993-94 season, organist Anthony Newman performed on the instrument for Miss Alice Tully's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

In 2006 the organ was removed from Alice Tully Hall and put in storage in a facility outside of Albany, New York. During that time it was cleaned and polished by hand and the pipes were individually 'trued' to their original round shape. Also, the console was cleaned, re-wired and re-jointed, and the wood was re-stained and re-varnished. The bulk of the cleaning and renovation of the organ took place in Argyle, New York and Männedorf, Switzerland in the spring of 2010

Each of the 4,192 pipes was cleaned and repaired. The windchests have been cleaned, repaired and re-leathered, and the original plastic sliders have been replaced with oak sliders for a more reliable wind supply and stable tuning.

All parts of the tracker action were cleaned, repaired and adjusted, and the electronic stop action was completely rewired. A new electronic capture system was purchased and installed. This system remembers different stop combinations so that the sound of the organ can be instantly changed, mid-performance.

The new Alice Tully Hall, designed by the architects Diller Scofidio + Renfro in collaboration with FXFOWLE Architects, opened on February 22, 2009. Re-installation of the organ began on June 14, 2010 and continued throughout the summer. Initial voicing of the organ was completed by Orgelbau Kuhn on September 11.

Walker Technical has installed the POET digital voice system and, in collaboration with Kuhn, voiced the two digital pedal stops

Work on the organ casework façade is complete.

On November 16, 2010, Paul Jacobs, Chairman of the Organ Department of The Juilliard School, re-inaugurated the organ with a performance of J.S. Bach's "Clavier-Übung III" (with chorales sung by The Clarion Choir, Steven Fox, director) during Lincoln Center's *White Light Festival*.

Location: Alice Tully Hall, northwest corner of 65<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway

Gift of: Miss Alice Tully

Builder: Orgelbau Th.Kuhn Organ Builders, Ltd.  
Männedorf, Switzerland

Instrument Designer: Fredrich Jako of Kuhn Organ Builders  
with consultant Lawrence Phelps

Visual Designer: Jakob Schmidt

Key Dates: 1974 — Organ built

August 13, 1975 — Organ inaugurated by E. Power Biggs

1984 — Contrebombarde 32' added to the Pedal

2006 — Organ removed to storage

June 14, 2010 — Organ returned to Alice Tully Hall for re-installation

November 16, 2010 — Paul Jacobs, Chairman of the Organ Department of The Juilliard School, re-inaugurated the organ with a performance of J.S. Bach's "Clavier-Übung III" (with chorales sung by The Clarion Choir, Steven Fox, director) during Lincoln Center's *White Light Festival*.

Features: 4,192 pipes

Pipes are arranged in 85 ranks distributed among 61 speaking stops

Four independent manual keyboards  
Direct mechanical linkage from keys to pipes

Walker Technical has installed the POET digital voice system and, in collaboration with Kuhn, voiced the two digital pedal stops

Total weight is 19 tons

Longest pipe is 18.3' long; shortest pipe is a tenth of an inch

Some of the pipes are made of wood, the majority are made of metal

As of November 13, 2013