

## Press Release from St. George's Music Ministries

May 2020

St. George's is pleased to announce the purchase of a pipe organ from John-Paul Buzard Pipe Organ Builders.

The process of finding a new organ began in the fall of 2018 with the formation of an organ committee tasked with researching organ builders, developing a vision for a new organ, and interviewing builders as a part of St. George's "Living our Legacy" capital campaign. The mission was to recommend an organ builder capable of creating an organ of outstanding quality and craftsmanship, which will enhance our worship services further. Guiding principles included a mandate that the organ must be timeless in its tonal colors, able to produce a variety of organ repertoire, and be low in ongoing maintenance costs. With the support of our professional consultant, Scott Riedel, we narrowed down the number of organ builders by their reputation, instrument style, and known quality.

The committee made three trips to visit six organ builders, researching eleven organs total. During each visit, St. George's Director of Music and Associate Director played the same hymns, choral anthems, and psalms as well as various concert repertoire to test each organ's versatility and capability. Over the next several months, the committee listened to the recordings and studied the specifications and tonal qualities of each organ.

After months of deliberation, we selected three organ builders as finalists. After careful consideration, the organ committee unanimously recommended John-Paul Buzard Pipe Organ Builders from Champaign, Illinois, and St. George's vestry accepted the recommendation. This new organ will be timeless in its tonal colors and able to both support congregational singing and accompany our choirs to their fullest potential.

Our rector, the Rev. Dr. Leigh Spruill commented: *"St. George's is honored and excited to contract with John-Paul Buzard Pipe Organ Builders for the construction of a magnificent new instrument. The decision for a new organ follows an intensive analysis by parish leaders and outside experts on the best way to improve the musical and acoustical quality of our main sanctuary. It also flows from a strong ongoing commitment to our traditional Anglican liturgical and musical heritage. We are confident that planned renovations and a new organ in this space will enhance our experience of worship and are grateful for the privilege of working with Buzard on this project. Worship is our highest priority as Christians, and I give thanks to God again for the generosity of our parishioners who have made possible these dramatic improvements to St. George's liturgical life for the future."*

The president of the firm, John-Paul Buzard, commented: *"The prospect of building a new pipe organ for St. George's Church is an honor and a privilege. My entire team and I are tremendously excited to have been selected for this commission and have been enjoying a wonderfully collegial relationship as we incorporate the new organ's visual design into the architecture of the soon-to-be remodeled sanctuary. To be able to build an instrument for St. George's is a responsibility which we take very seriously and in which we also rejoice!"*

In addition to the inherent strength and beauty of its tonal quality and versatility, this instrument will be unique in several meaningful ways. For a full list of specifications, visit our website at [stgeorgesnashville.org/music](http://stgeorgesnashville.org/music). We anticipate the organ will be built and installed by the end of 2021. In the meantime, we will use an electronic organ to lead worship services in the sanctuary as well as in Hampton Hall. After the new pipe organ is installed, this electronic organ will eventually replace our Chapel organ.

Please direct any questions to Dr. Woosug Kang, Director of Music Ministries at St. George's Episcopal Church at [woosug.kang@stgeorgesnashville.org](mailto:woosug.kang@stgeorgesnashville.org).