

# MULLER PIPE ORGAN COMPANY

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## **Wayside Presbyterian Church Erie, Pennsylvania**

**Two manuals, 24 stops, 29 ranks  
1965 Tellers Organ Company (Opus 1003)  
Restored 2008**

In 1965, Wayside Presbyterian Church in Erie, Pennsylvania purchased a new organ from the Tellers Organ Company, also of Erie. This organ possesses twenty-nine ranks across two manuals and pedal. The Great and Swell divisions are well appointed, each possessing a full Principal Chorus through the Mixture, and a colorful assortment of strings, flutes and reeds. The Pedal division contains only two ranks of pipes, making use of appropriate unification to balance the manual stops.

The Tellers organ served Wayside Church well for over 40 years. The console was upgraded to a new Peterson Duo-Set Combination Action in the late 1980s, and the instrument's reservoirs were rebuilt in the early 2000s. Through the 2000s, the instrument's leathers began to fail, causing dead notes and ciphers. Additionally, the manual and pedal keyboards showed significant aging. It was clear that restoration of the organ was due.

During our assessment of the condition of the instrument, we determined that the console was in such condition as to warrant replacement. Additionally, the chamber layout was problematic since several offset bass windchests were located in front of other windchests, making maintenance difficult. Tonally, the organ was successful overall. However, several stops spoke extremely slowly or were regulated very poorly, plus the Trumpet and Fagott stops were overly loud and lacked color.

To address the mechanical issues, Muller constructed a new custom built, two manual and pedal rocker tablet console. The relatively recent Peterson combination action was refurbished and reused. All switching in the organ was updated, which freed up chamber space on top of the Swell expression box (where the old mechanical switching had been located). New offset windchests were built for the Trumpet and Principal basses and were relocated to this newly created space, making the entire Great organ more accessible for maintenance. The windchests of the organ were releathered, ensuring decades of trouble free operation.

Tonally, the most dramatic change was to the organ's Trumpet and Fagott stops, which were replaced from 8' C up. The new Trumpet features English shallots, and the Fagott was replaced with a new French style Hautbois. The existing pipes from the 16' range of the Trumpet and Fagott were refurbished and revoiced. The organ's third reed, the Dulzian was restored. This Dulzian sounds like a cross between a Cromorne and a Clarinet, utilizing large scaled cylindrical resonators on a relatively low 3" wind pressure.

The flue stops of the organ were regulated at our shop. Small adjustments were made to the voicing of each pipe to ensure that it spoke promptly and with quality. Of particular note are the somewhat unusual Great Dolcan and Dolcan Celeste. These pipes feature an inverted taper, meaning that the diameter of the pipe is larger at the top than at the bottom. They provide a beautifully sweet, dolce tone and are the most successful strings of the organ.