

The organ at Church of the Ascension, Cadenabbia

Specification

1st manual (great): 61 notes

Fugara 4' (metal); Principale 4' (metal); Principale 8' (metal) Chimney flute 8' (wood); Bordone 8' (wood); Dulciana 8' (metal).

2nd manual (swell): 61 notes

Oboe 8' (reed); Viola 8' (metal); Voce Celeste 8' (metal); Eufonio 8' (metal); Flute 4' (wood); Bordone 16' (wood);

Full pedal board: 32 notes

Dolce 16' (wood, partially derived); Subbasso 16' (wood); Cello 8' (metal)

Full complement of couplers

super/sub octaves – couplers between manuals and pedalboard

combinazione libera – swell pedal – general crescendo pedal

Electropneumatic action

Organ builder: Balbiani Vegezzi Bossi of Milan, 1939

The chimney flute is particularly beautiful while the fine reed stop (oboe) is quite powerful and renders the instrument suitable for the French school. The foundation stope (principal 8' and 4') provide a firm basis for accompanying the congregational singing (i.e. the purpose for which the organ was designed).

The organ builders

Lorenzo Balbiani (1798–1876), founder of the renowned family of organ builders in Lombardy, started off by opening a factory in Lecco. He was followed by his son Natale (1836–1912) who moved to Milan where two sons were born: Celestino and Luigi. Celestino married Alessandria, daughter of Carlo Vegezzi Bossi (1858–1927), one of the greatest organ builders of his day. The two brothers, besides building the organ in Cadenabbia, were responsible for several fine instruments both in Italy and abroad, e.g. in the USA, Alessandria (Egypt) and Sao Paulo (Brazil).

Maintenance and restoration

In 2012/13 the organ was fully restored as a result of generous donations for which we are most grateful. Our very special and valued organ requires constant care and maintenance in order for Organists to enjoy and delight in playing it for Services and concerts.