

In Times of Crisis ~

The organ is a four manual and pedal design with a divided Rückpositiv on the gallery railing. The organ was restored in 2009 by Taylor and Boody of Staunton, Virginia. George Taylor had met Rudolf von Beckerath at St. Paul Cathedral as the organ was being completed in 1962, and arranged an apprenticeship with Beckerath to commence two years later after Taylor's graduation from Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. In 1961, Taylor had visited the Beckerath organ and the crew installing it (but not Beckerath, himself) at the University of Richmond. The Hamburg apprenticeship of Taylor lasted three and one-half years.

The restoration included replacement of the original pneumatic slider motors with electric ones, installation of a 256-level combination action (26 general pistons, 6 divisional pistons, 4 Pedal division pistons), and addition of the Great to Pedal coupler. Restorative work included replacement of seventeen collapsing 32' Principal pipes of zinc with new pipes of tin, replacement of five collapsing interior 32' Principal pipes, restoration of the console, strengthening of the sides and back of the case, cleaning and repair of all pipes, and polishing and lacquering all facade pipes.

1962 Rudolf von Beckerath, Hamburg, Germany
St. Paul's Cathedral, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania