



Istanbul Pipe Organ Team Presentation and Restoration Report of J.W. Walker & Sons pipe organ

To whom it may concern,

In this humble report, we will be briefly telling who we are, what we are doing, importance of the J.W. Walker & Sons pipe organ in Buca Protestant Baptist Church and the possibility to be restored and speak the God's voice again and forever.

About Us and What We are Doing

Istanbul Pipe Organ Team was established in the beginning of 2019 by four dedicated and skilled persons. Tarkan Sendal, the founder, is studying musical composition at Marmara University at the moment and he has been several times to Europe for organ-building internship vacancies. Aras Ali and Ayham Mallisho are professional video editors and great assistants for restoration projects. Ahmet Sert is a mechanical engineer who already supported us by making many mechanical parts those we needed while making restorations.

During the first year just after Istanbul Pipe Organ Team was established, Team has restored three organs which two of them are Hill and Sons organs and one is a small size Gebrüder-Rieger, organized three organ concerts and prepared our Gebrüder-Rieger organ for the Opus Amadeus Istanbul Organ Festival. Those all events took places in Crimean Memorial Church, St. Helena Chapel, Buyukdere St. Mary Church and Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. Works continued with Presidential Symphony Orchesta's Werner-Bosch organ in Ankara and a small positive organ built by Robin Jennings. Currently we proceed with the restoration of 1859-built Bossi-Urbani organ in St. Mary Draperis in Istanbul.



Our mission is to access as much as organs possible and restore/preserve them so that our churches will not be silent during holy masses and pipe organ culture will be surviving eternally in our country.

Importance of the Organ in Buca Baptist Church

The organ in Buca Protestant Baptist Church is a very generous gift from the Rees' that was a Levantine family in Izmir (Smyrna). According to the plate on the organ, it was donated to the Church by Thomas Bowen Rees in 1922 as a thank to the church for their supports during the Great War time. The organ was built by very well-known British builder J.W. Walker & Sons that was established in 1828 by Joseph William Walker. They kept family tradition and more importantly they built an organ for our land thanks to the efforts of Rees family. It is our priority to preserve such a kind present and such a masterwork which was made by one of the bests of British organ builders.



Briefly Restoration Report

Wind Leading, Observations, Suggestions (Pump Pedals, Blower and Feeders, Bellows, Trunks, Materials i.e. Leather, etc...)

The organ has no blower, thus to keep it playing one person must constantly pump wind to the bellows while the organist performs. Considering the general cost of the restoration, blower can be omitted for a while since it is an electrical modern invention which didn't exist before.

Manual pump was unable to rise the bellows due to heavy leaks of the chest. A suitable leather will be needed from local suppliers which will not cost much.

Mechanism Contidion, Observations, Suggestions and (Action, Elec. Devices, Trackers/Tubes, etc...)

At first sight the action seems intact but there are many broken trackers. All must be replaced/fixed and local sources can be used for this operation. After necessary replacements done, entire action must be regulated. In the following picture you will notice broken action parts. If we spot broken materials those cannot be replaced by local sources, we will have to order them from organ supply companies.



Chests' Contidion, Observations, Suggestions and C.E. (Main Frame, Pallets, Upper Boards, Pull-Down Wires/Pneumatics etc...)

Chests are in fine condition except being out of regulation which causes heavy leaks, thus preventing the bellows to rise. We didn't observe any broken pallets inside the chests but we do expect dried leather over the pallets. In the following picture you will see the interior of the chest showing the pallets, pallet-springs, pull-down wires and more importantly few pallets stands open slightly which is a proof that action should be well regulated.



Pipes' Condition, Observations, Suggestions and C.E. (Register by Register Examine, Tuning, Voicing, Damages, Paintings, Materials i.e. Metal, etc...)

As observed during my visit, the organ has only a few metal pipes remaining which are the front and side façade and wood pipes which several of them are badly damaged. We already have contacted several organ builders who can be helpful for getting the metal pipe work and their price offers will be listed in the end.

When ordered, metal pipes will be delivered as cleaned, maintained and voiced at desired pressure. We are going to fully tune them after installing inside the organ. Damaged wood pipes will be maintained by us and we will need to use a local carpenter workshop for this. We spotted bend/cracked pipes, inappropriately attached pipes, lost caps etc.

In the pictures below you will briefly see the condition of wood pipes.





Console Condition, Observations, Suggestions and C.E. (Keyboards, Pedalboard, Register Plates/Rods, etc...)

By first look, console seems not requiring much effort, but it needs in deed. Dropped keys will be remedied by fixing the action of the organ. We noticed one stop knob was misplaced. Also the key frame will need special attention. Felts and punchings under the keys will be replaced to prevent action noises and to keep it fresh. If we spot any bend keys due to humidity, it will be fixed in a local carpenter workshop. Same operations will be done for the pedalboard as well. After all done, entire console and parts of it must be properly cleaned and regulated. In the picture below you see the dropped keys of the Great keyboard, due to either broken trackers or out-of-regulation action.



Cabinet (Case) Condition, Observations, Suggestions and C.E. (Style of the Cabinet, Damages, Paintings, etc...)

Cabinet needs a general cleaning and perhaps re-painting based on the original color. If we spot any broken faceboards of the case, in a carpenter workshop we will be able to replace them. Later, upon request, British style lamps and aids may be added upon request to make the organ look much better and aesthetic.

Conclusion, Work Conditions and Total Cost Estimation:

After all the brief examine details, we can specify the steps of our job as following;

- 1) Wind supply mechanism must be over-seen.
- 2) Action must be restored, well regulated and partially mechanical parts must be replaced.
- 3) Chests must be carefully re-conditioned and sealed.
- 4) Console and manuals must be over-seen and parts must be replaced.
- 5) Metal pipes must be ordered, installed and tuned.
- 6) Damaged wood pipes must be restored properly.
- 7) Case of the organ must be well renovated based on the original design.

To accomplish such a hard task as this organ's complete restoration;

- We will be working at least two members of the team, and from time to time three depending on the task,
- This restoration will last few months of hard work,
- We will need accomodation and an empty space to store the parts of the organ during the process.

BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

Since there will be local and international expenses, we kindly recommend to have two separate budgets.

For local expenses it would be great to arrange a budget of 35.000 Turkish Lira and plus half of it in case of extra costs due to increase of prices.

Considering international costs, the organ missing two essential parts which are a blower and almost all the metal pipe work. Following offers are from different organ builders and manufacturers;

- Jonathan Lane from France offers 2.100 Euro for all the missing pipes, offered pipes are 2nd hand and I do not know the name of the original maker of them.
- William Smyth from Ireland offers 7.000 Euro for all the missing pipes, offered pipes are 2nd hand from well-known Gray & Davison company.
- J.W. Walker & Sons from England offered 18.200 GBP to re-produce the pipes according to historical records. They will be brand new and directly from original builder.
- Hungarian based organ blower producer company, Könyves, offered 1.200 Euro for a suitable size blower for our organ but it has been a while since they offered this price. There may be a slight increase on the price. The blower is essential for wind, thus must be a suitable machine rather than a motor and propeller, I will do my best to check if I can find proper material from local sources. Again mentioning, blower can be omitted.
- I am personally in touch with many organ-builders who might have the proper pipe ranks for our organ and all the names and prices are much to list here. We must keep in mind that, the minimum price we get, so far, is from France, from Master Jonathan Lane which roughly make around 1750 GBP and there will be extra costs such as packaging, shipping and custom taxes which doesn't depend from who we are ordering. They always will be extra. I will keep informing the Church and our supporters whenever I get a new price offer.

I do hope this report is helpful to give an idea of such project and describe the current state of the organ.

With my deepest respects and best wishes for the life of this important heritage,
Tarkan Sendal
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