



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

This report here is to address the authority of Buca Protestant Church and beloved supporters of this project. In this 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 Church and its 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 competent 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. Last but not least, 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 3 organs, organized 3 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, Büyükdere St. Mary Church and the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.

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.



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## **Importance of the Organ in Buca Protestant Church**

The organ in Buca Protestant 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 Willian Walker. They kept family tradition and more importantly they built an organ for our land thanks to the Rees family. It is our priority to preserve such a humble present and such a masterwork that was touched by one of the bests of British organ builders.



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## **Briefly Restoration Report**

### **Air Leading System, Observations, Suggestions (Pump Pedals, Blower and Feeders, Bellows, Trunks, Materials i.e. Leather, etc...)**

The organ has no blower, so to keep it playing one person must constantly pump wind to the bellows while the organist performs. A blower that can produce enough wind for this organ is 1200 Euro + silencer box fee + VAT.

Manual pump was unable to make bellows rising. So leather on feeders and bellows is worn out and needs to be replaced. To do this, large portions of leather must be ordered from special manufacturers. We estimate minimum 1000 Euro for leather orders.

With the blower connected to the bellows, feeders won't be necessary to be releathered and wind system will be properly working. Safety valves on the bellows will be obligatory to build to prevent it from blowing up.

### **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 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.



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

Since our founder and chief technician Tarkan Sendal was unable to visit and check the condition in detailed by himself and from the pictures it is not possible to tell about the condition of the chests. However, we cannot expect broken pallets inside the chests but we can expect dried leather over the pallets or wind leakages due to bend wood condition depending on the humidity of Izmir. If those are the cases, chests will have to be taken out and maintained properly.

In the following picture you will see an example of inside the chest from a different organ, showing the pallet, pallet-spring, leather blackened, pull-down wire and the case of the chest.



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

As observed from our colleague's investigation and from the pictures we have, the organ has no metal pipes except the display and wood pipes are badly damaged. All ranks of the missing metal pipes (more than 360 pipes) can be ordered from one of the French organ-builder's workshop, priced as 1850 Euro + packing + VAT.

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

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will need to use a carpenter workshop for this. We spotted bend or cracked pipes, improperly attached pipes, lost caps etc.  
In the pictures below you will briefly see the condition of wood pipes.



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

By first look, console seems not requiring too much effort, but indeed it needs. Dropped keys will be fixed by fixing the action of the organ. We noticed one stop knob place was changed. 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 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 not-regulated 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. When blower is installed, there will be few electrical cables invisibly lying through the cabinet so that it is allowing the organist to switch on the organ. Also British style lamps and aids may be added upon request to make the organ look much better and aesthetic.

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### 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 restored.
- 2) Action must be restored, well regulated and partially mechanical parts must be replaced.
- 3) Chests must be carefully checked and may require restoration.
- 4) Console and manuals must be restored 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 2 members of the team, sometimes 3,
- Since we have other jobs in Istanbul too, we will be travelling weekly between Istanbul and Izmir,
- This restoration will last several months of hard work,
- We will need accommodation and an empty space to work provided by either church authority or thanks to our supporters in Izmir,
- We will be carrying all the tools and materials back and forth needed for this project, etc.

### In Total, Istanbul Pipe Organ Team kindly asks for;

40.000 TL + accommodation, empty space to work and expenses of orders from organ supply companies provided.

**We do hope that altogether we will success bringing this beautiful instrument back to life and make it speak God's music eternally after all the years of silence.**

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