

Sarto Centre

Pipe Organ

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History of the Sarto Centre

The property on the corner of Daisy Street and Anderson Street was formerly the site of the Chatswood Congregational Church which was established in the very early 1900s, and then the site of a Uniting Church. The original church building is now used as the “Sarto Gym” and the current Sarto Centre was built in 1933.

In February of 1910 a “...floral fete in aid of the organ fund...” raised approximately £100 for the purchase of the church’s first pipe organ. Almost twenty years later, in 1928, Joseph Massey (a church member) purchased a new instrument for the church from the organist of St Andrew’s Cathedral in Sydney, this is the pipe-organ that today resides in the “Sarto Centre”. It was installed in the original church building and then moved into the new church building constructed in 1933.

Congregational church then merged into uniting church around 1980/90s, Sunday c3 services as well.

In 2009, St Pius X College purchased the Uniting Church property on the corner of Daisy Street and Anderson Street Chatswood. The College named it the “Sarto Centre” in honour of Giuseppe Sarto, better known as Pope Pius X, the patron saint of The College.

Presumed the organ is believed to be non-functional.

The former church began life as the new building for the Chatswood Congregational Church constructed in 1933 for approximately £2500. The Congregational Church had previously resided in what is currently the “Sarto Gym”.

Information on it as a uniting church and weekly c3.

The College purchased the building in 2009 after the purchase of two other properties on Anderson Street the previous year. It is not known whether the organ was considered functional at this point.

Chatswood Congregational Church, then a uniting church (1990s?) also a c3 church at a certain hour.

History of the Organ

At least half of the pipe organ in the Sarto Centre today was built in 1859 by organ builder J.W. Walker in London. The company has produced numerous instruments, most notably the one ___. The organ was ordered for St. Andrew's Anglican Pro-Cathedral in Sydney. It is believed that once construction of the current St. Andrew's Cathedral began, the organist received the instrument personally. In January or February of 1928 Joseph Massey, a member of the Chatswood Congregational Church, purchased the instrument and installed it into the original church building (Sarto Gym). At the time of this purchase it was fitted with two manuals (keyboards) and extra pipes and stops were added to produce a fuller sound. Upon the completion of the new church building (Sarto Centre) in 1933, it was moved there where it has resided since. This building was opened with an organ recital on Saturday 19th August 1933. At this point the organ was 74 years old. In 1966 an Arthur Jones renovated the organ, refreshing its sound to its former glory.

It is believed the instrument was used until the late 80s or 90s. When the school purchased the property in 2009, it is assumed that it was thought to not be working.

According to source [1], the organ was originally constructed in 1859 by J.W. Walker in London. (TALK ABOUT JW WALKER)

It was shipped and installed, in 1859, into St Andrew's Temporary Cathedral Sydney [2]. (INFO ON THAT?)

A date as early as 1859 appears.

Acquisition by Joseph Massey in 1928.

(Edmund rice organ?)

- Made by J.W. Walker in England 1859
- Shipped to Australia and installed in St Andrew's Pro-Cathedral
- Moved out of the Cathedral when removed to install the real Cathedral.
- Ownership to Mr. Matthew organist at St Andrew's
- Jan-Feb 1928 Joseph Massey acquires the Organ to be installed in the original church building. Upgraded to two manuals.
- 1933 New church building is constructed and open Saturday 19th August 1933 and the instrument is installed. Organ is 74 years old.
- 1966 Arthur Jones renovates the organ, giving it a fresh life.
- 1977 Congregational Church merges with Uniting Church.
- 1980s/90s c3 services held once weekly on Sundays.
- 2009 St Pius X College purchases the Uniting Church property. It is believed that the organ was not known to be working at this point in time.
- Early 2010s the organ is inspected and would apparently cost \$20000-\$30000 to repair.
- 2019 A brief inspection shows that the organ, although working and playable, is not perfect. Requires repair of oboe, dulciana needs repair, bourdon needs to be inspected further for damage, cleaning of pipes, removal of dust, installation of pedal board, new hosing for pedal action

Organ Specifications

Great Stops:

- 8' Open Diapason
- 8' Clarabel
- 8' Dulciana
- 4' Principal

Swell Stops:

- 8' Open Diapason
- 8' Lieblich Gedact
- 8' Gamba
- 4' Suabe Flute
- 8' Oboe
- Tremulant (Vibrato)

Pedal Stops:

- 16' Bourdon

Couplers:

- Swell to Great
- Great to Pedal
- Swell Octave

Compass: 56 on Manuals, 30 on Pedals

Organ Layout Diagram

16' Bourdon	Swell Box	16' Bourdon
	8' Dulciana (Metal)	
	8' Clarabel (Wood)	
	4' Principal (Metal)	
8' Open Diapason (Metal)		
Console		

Swell Stops		(Mirror/Lid)	Great Stops	
8' Oboe	Tremulant	Swell Manual		
4' Suabe Flute	8' Gamba		4' Principal	8' Dulciana
8' Open Diapason	8' Lieblich Gedact	Great Manual	8' Clarabel	8' Open Diapason
Great to Pedal	Swell Octave		Swell to Great	16' Bourdon

Requirements to the Restoration

- Inspection of pedal valves.
- Inspection of pedal hosing.
- Replacement of large diapason hosing.
- Repair of stop linkage.
- Repair of stop setting pedals.
- Repair of bent pipes.
- Cleaning of pipes, straightening. (Vacuuming)
- Inspection of bellows for leaks.
- Inspection of keyboard linkage.
- Inspection of bourdon pipes.
- Removal of pipes for cleaning / repair. Safe storage required.
- Open panels for access whilst repairing. Replace hinges.
- Establishment of guides for maintenance and care of the instrument.
- Photography of pipes,
- Tuning of pipes.
- Photography of the organ.

Sources

[1] <http://www.sydneyorgan.com/ChatswoodCong.html>

(Note: This page references the February/March edition of the Sydney Organ Journal)

[2] <https://trove.nla.gov.au/version/11685616>

[3] <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article125306447>

[4] <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85931334>

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