

Removing Aeolian- Skinner opus 1289

Aeolian-Skinner
Opus1289
Refurbishment
Progress Report

April 22, 2024

The Church of the Incarnation
209 Madison New York, NY
10016

Timeframe

April 4-
April 26
2024

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- Parish Property Management installs protective coverings for pews and windows on **Thursday, April 4**
 - **Friday, April 5** scaffolding installed
 - **Monday, April 8** Casavant checks site for readiness
 - **Tuesday, April 9** Casavant 70' truck delivers all materials
 - **Tuesday, April 9** – removal of Aeolian-Skinner op. 1289 begins.

Building Scaffolding – April 4, Thursday



Tuesday, April 9, a 70' truck arrives from Canada

Local movers remove Casavant pipe boxes from truck



Casavant subcontractors Robert, Douglas, and Chris survey access at Tiffany doors



Lift being readied to receive pipes and chests from organ chambers

- 2,800 pound capacity lift
 - Manually cranked up and down
 - Large boxes and chests are lowered to the floor
 - Some chests weigh 900 pounds
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Boxes are loaded with pipes pulled from the chamber. The boxes are “lifted” down using a mechanical lift.



Being able to put it back together requires attention to detail.

- Labelling is essential as there are thousands of parts and each must be tied back to its original location and function.
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Pipes in boxes along the south wall of the nave are prepared and ready for shipping - think “thousands” not hundreds.



- Neatly boxed and protected, all pipes will leave the Church in boxes with lids.
- All packaging and boxing must be completed by April 26 to meet logistics requirements of shipping, customs, and receiving in Canada.



The chancel and console. Note the pedals on the top part of the photo. The console is completely taken apart.



Pedalboard

Finally we can see firsthand the chaotic disposition of the existing organ within the chamber. Notice the pipes that are collapsing.



After partial
removal of the
great, the exposed
positive pipes in
the chancel
become visible.




Notice
random old
pipes strewn
on the floor of
the chamber.

Random
pipes



The console has been partially disassembled for shipping. The pedalboard is on its side.

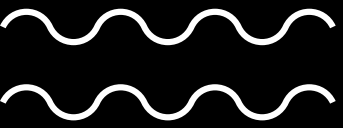




Every ivory key has been removed from the console and will be stored here at the Church: Canada strictly prohibits ivory crossing into Canada.

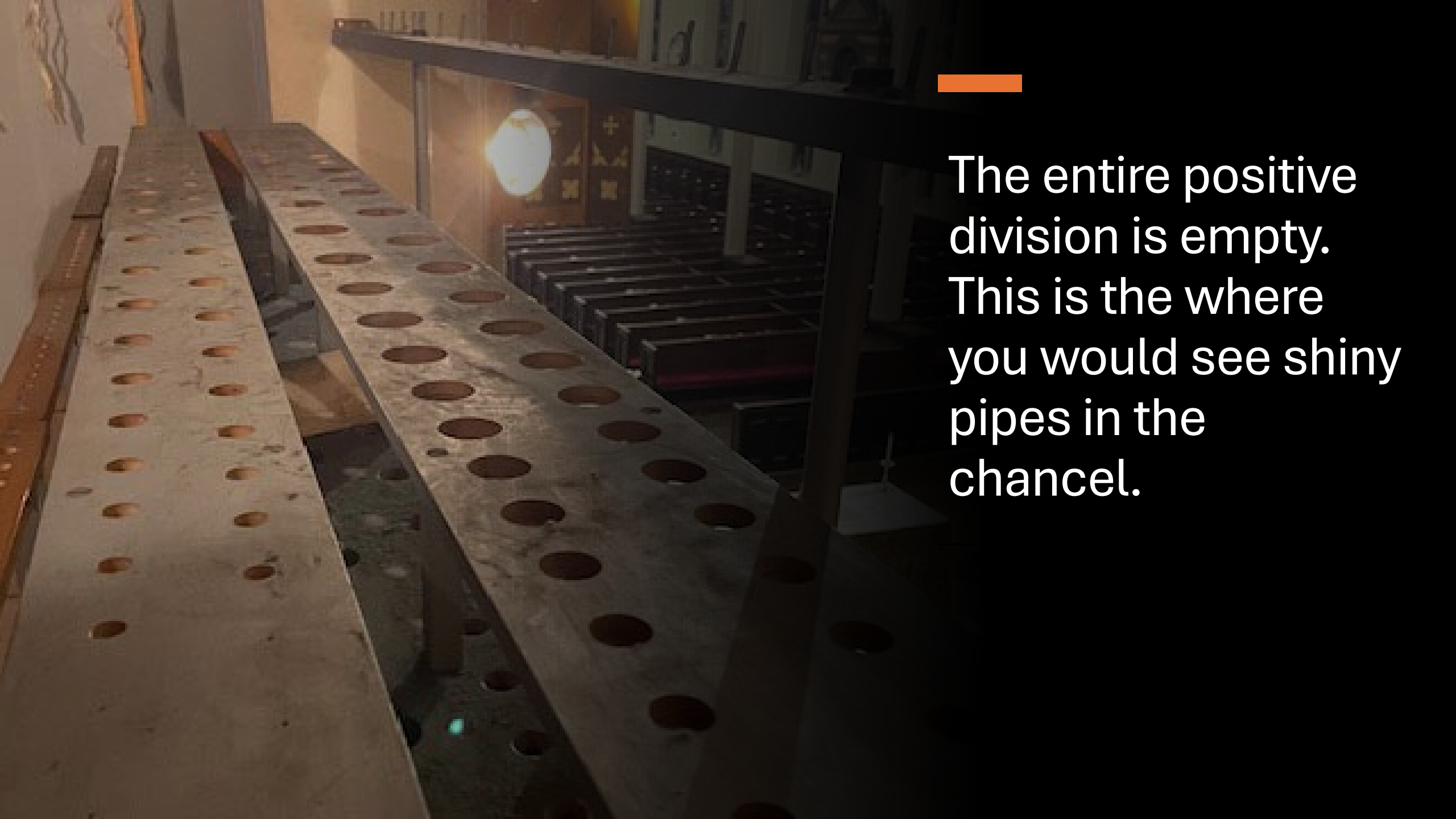


Inside the chamber -- both “floors” of the enclosed boxes have been removed. A box would normally have shutters that the organist opens and closes. They have been removed.

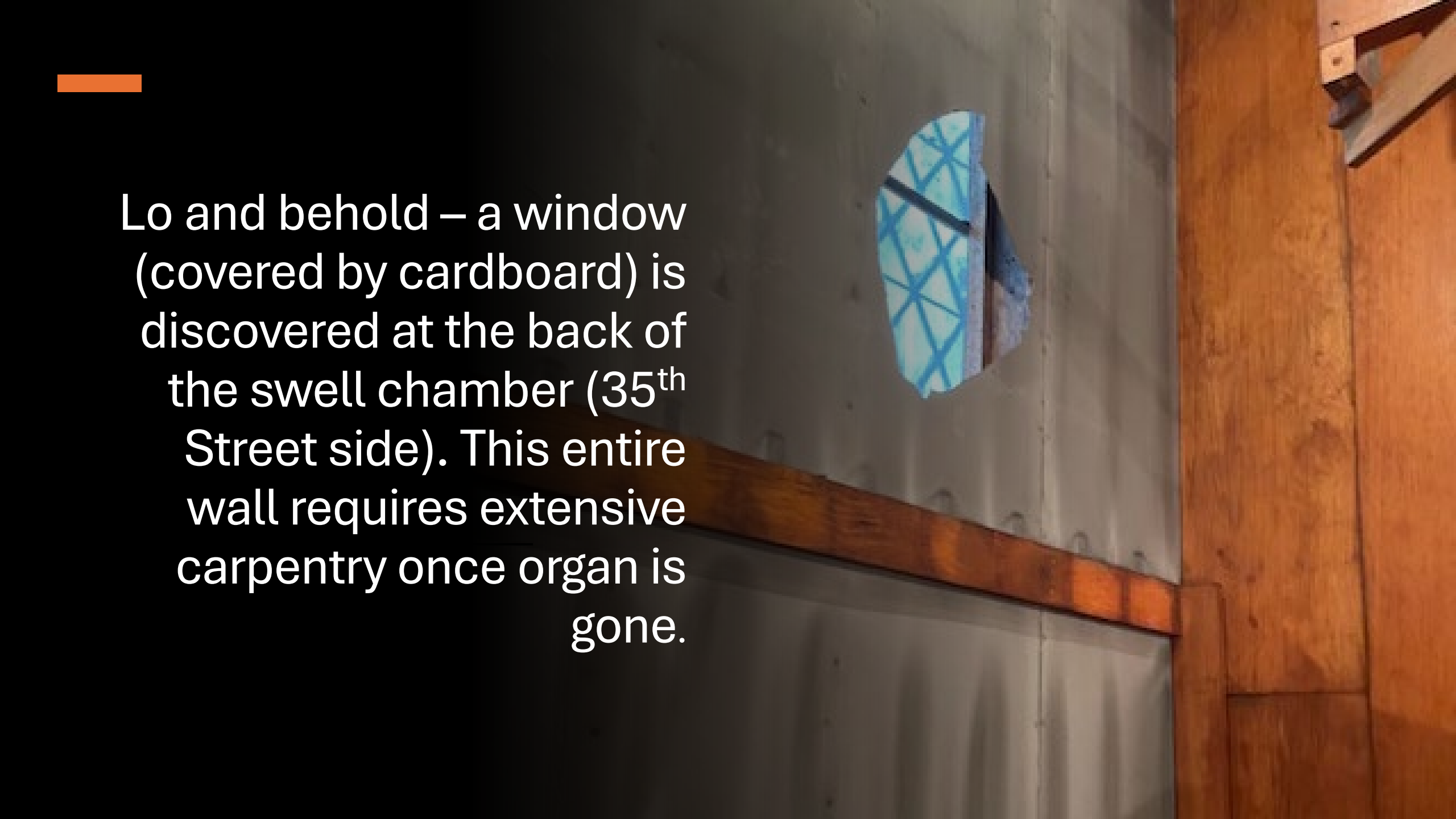





All pipework from the swell division is gone and the chests are being hoisted out for transport to Canada.



The entire positive division is empty. This is the where you would see shiny pipes in the chancel.



Lo and behold – a window (covered by cardboard) is discovered at the back of the swell chamber (35th Street side). This entire wall requires extensive carpentry once organ is gone.

A photograph of the interior of a Gothic cathedral. The scene is dominated by a balcony with extensive scaffolding, indicating restoration work. The balcony is supported by two tall, white, fluted columns with ornate capitals. In the background, a large, dark stained-glass window is visible, partially obscured by the scaffolding. The architecture features pointed arches and intricate carvings. The lighting is dramatic, with the balcony area being brightly lit while the rest of the cathedral is in shadow.

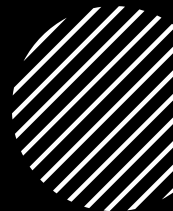
Is Aeolian-Skinner opus
1289 missing?
Almost!

On April 26,
everything will be
gone. Three façade
pipes remain. They
too will travel north
for refinishing.





Now it is up
to us at
Incarnation
to do some
heavy lifting!



Repair roof.



Resurface all chamber surfaces with MDR board to increase sound reflexivity.



Replace all tongue and groove paneling with non vibrating materials.




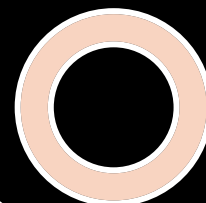


Sheet rock walls that are currently covered in cardboard.



Install lighting.



Enclose acoustical space with framing to maximize tonal projection.



Have you
completed your
pledge to the
Incarnation
Common Chord?

- We have raised \$655,000 in pledges! Please help us get to our campaign goal of \$800,000.

