

**The Reformed Church of Beacon,
1113 Wolcott Avenue
Beacon, NY 12508**



Geo. H. Ryder, 1895 , Opus 188

Renovated c. 1979 by Archie Marchi & Joe Corkedale

**Two manuals of 61 keys and pedalboard of 27 pedals,
21 ranks, 19 speaking stops.**

Tracker key action. Slider chests. Mechanical stop action.

Stop knobs on side jambs. Balanced swell pedal.

The combination action is a fixed mechanical system.

Flat, straight pedalboard

GREAT

Open Diapason 8'

Melodia 8'

Gamba 8'

Dulciana 8'

Octave 4'

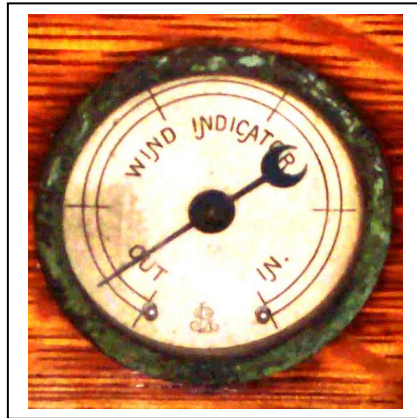
Flute D'Amour 4'

Twelfth 3'

Fifteenth 2'

Mixture III

Blowers Signal



A Wind Indicator (gauge)
alerting the organist in real
time to the bellows capacity.

SWELL (enclosed)

Bourdon 16'

Open Diapason 8'

St. Diapason 8'

Salicional 8'

Oboe 8'

Flute 4'

Violine 4'

Piccolo 2'

Tremolo

PEDAL

Open Diapason 16'

Bourdon 16'

COUPLERS

Swell to Pedal

Great to Pedal

Swell to Great

There are 5 mechanical composition pedals (foot levers):

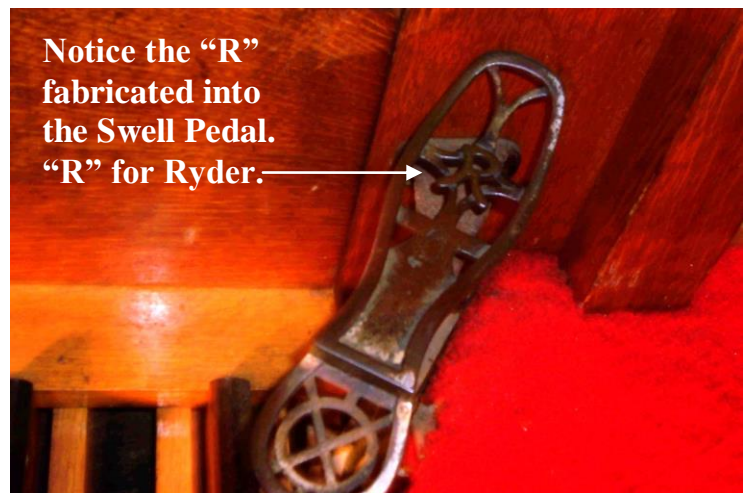
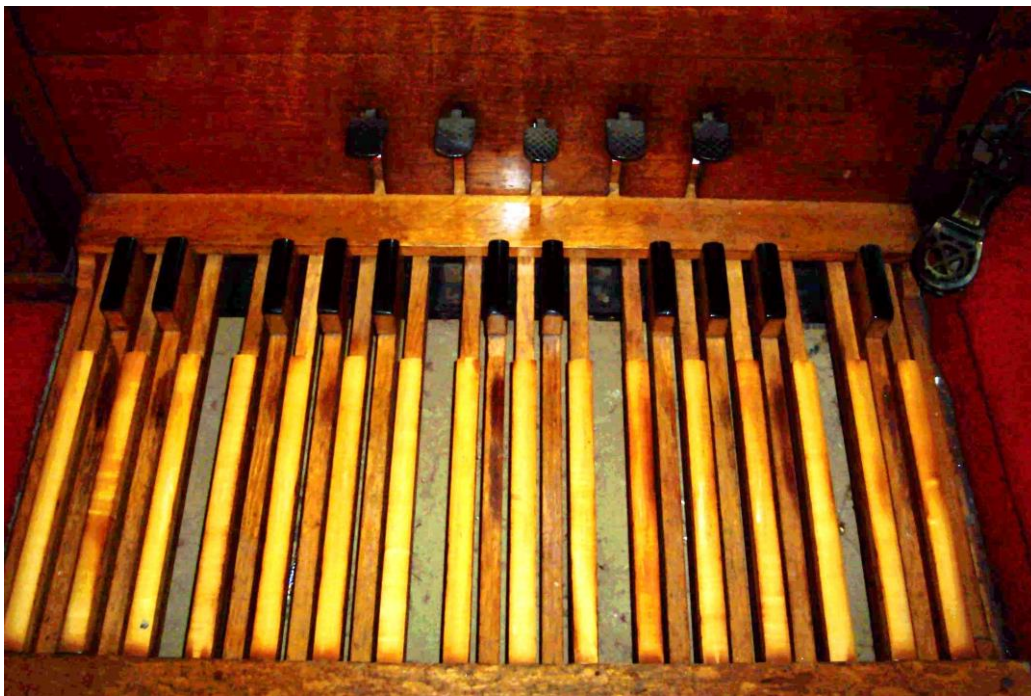
1. Great Forte (draws all the Great stops except the Mixture)
2. Great Piano (cancels all the Great stops except the Open Diapason and Gamba)
3. Swell Forte (draws all the Swell stops except the Oboe)
4. Swell "Piano" (cancels all the Swell except stops except the Open Diapason and St. Diapason)
5. Great to Pedal Reversible (coupler)

Purchased for \$1800, this instrument was very advanced for its day. It was originally hand pumped, then powered by a Ross Water Motor (around 1911) and is now blown by an electric motor. It is the largest pipe organ in Beacon.





The small rectangular plaques above the Swell manual correspond to the composition pedals (metal foot levers) above the pedalboard (below). They read, in order from l.-r.: *Swell Piano*, *Swell Forte*, *Gt. to Ped.*, *Great Piano*, *Great Forte*



Notice the "R" fabricated into the Swell Pedal. "R" for Ryder.



The Swell stop knobs. The Flute 4' is known to be a later replacement (possibly a Harmonic Flute). Notice how the font differs from the others.



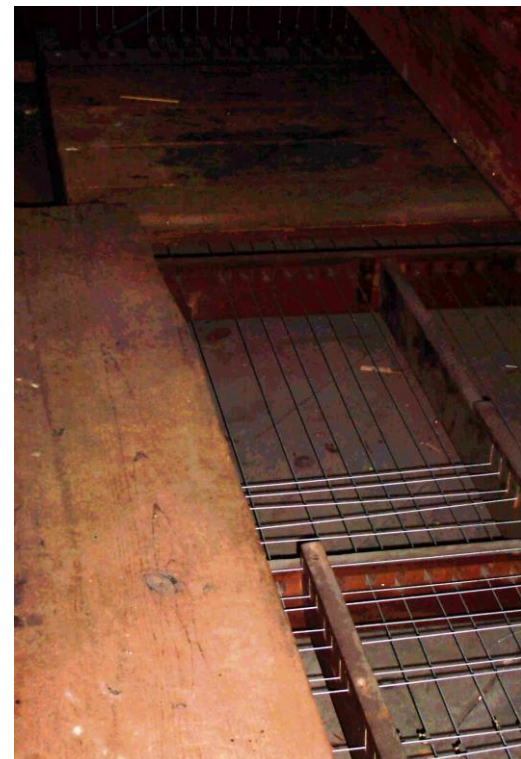
The Great and Pedal stop knobs with the Blowers Signal. The stop names on the faces (showing the pitch-length first) are thicker and more faded than the other (original) faces.



A front view showing the keydesk, stops, bench, pedals and façade pipes. Behind the façade you can see the silvery interior pipework.



The façade pipes were originally painted in a striped pattern but were repainted a solid bronze color around 1902. You can see the stripes faintly up close. Behind them is the gnarled tubing carrying their wind supply.



This interior view shows the pedal trackers directly behind the pedalboard running to the 16' Pedal Open Diapason windchest at the back of the organ. The perpendicular ones below them run to the Bourdon chest on the nave side of the case.

This organ was built by Ryder reputedly to gain access to the Mid Hudson Valley market, which had been dominated around this time by organ builders from New York City (Odell, Jardine, Hilborne & Frank Roosevelt {1st cousin to Theodore Roosevelt}, etc.) and Springfield/Westfield Massachusetts (Johnson, Steere & Turner, Howard, etc.).

Though installed entirely in the left corner of the chancel, there is a matching case for symmetry with half-round wooden “dummy” pipe flats in the right corner, also facing the nave and chancel. The two cases are connected by an ornate gothic rood screen. The oaken woodwork of the case was reportedly built locally to Ryder’s specifications.

The Reformed Church of Beacon

Originally known as the Reformed Dutch Church of Fishkill Landing, the congregation was established in 1813. Its cemetery contained the original burial site of William Few, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Well-known abolitionist Henry Ward Beecher preached here shortly after the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, telling the congregation that liberty should be for all.



The “dummy” façade

The present church building was designed by Frederick Clarke Withers and built in 1859. It is a rare example of his church architecture in the Victorian Gothic style, and one of the earlier uses of that style in the US. He also built Beacon’s St. Luke’s Episcopal Church.

Organists of the Reformed Church of Beacon have included Elizabeth Schofield Barnum (1896-1958..62 years!); Richard C. Ehlenberg (summer of 1957); Kermit Borst; Vera Goertz; Jan Ortquist (1980’s); Sherry Boersma; Bob Siebert (1990’s); Nancy Demlia Scott; Debra Damelio ; Larry Hazzard (2012-present).

At one time the entire music program was paid for by the owner of Brockway Bricks.



A handle for the water motor that at one time operated the bellows.