

## The Simmons Chamber Organ

We have some wonderful news to share about a new chamber organ for St. Paul's Church. A most beautiful organ built in the 1850s by William B.D. Simmons, pictured here, will be installed in St. Paul's very soon. An historic instrument such as this is always hard to come by, but St. Paul's has been very blessed to obtain this instrument recently from St. John's Seminary in Brighton. As you can see, this organ will appear beautiful to the eye, and it will sound just as beautiful to the ear.



This instrument is perfect for the accompaniment of "early" choir music (composed before 1700 for just the kind of choir we have at St. Paul's), as well as for accompanying cantors and more intimate congregational hymns and chants. It will also play early organ repertoire beautifully, and will be ideal as a continuo organ for use with orchestra. The new organ will make for a beautiful contrast with the more powerful and diverse instrument in the gallery, which will always be the main organ for the accompaniment of choir and congregation in choral music, hymns, and chants.

Chamber or "portative" organs are an ancient feature of Catholic music programs, and they enable choirs to sing in multiple locations in large churches like St. Paul's. This beautiful instrument

will play a long-term role in accompanying choirs singing early choral music in the transept. A music program like the one at St. Paul's, with its renowned choir of men and boys, requires such an organ as the Simmons for such accompaniments, which would have been designed with just such an instrument in mind. Our choir loft is the most wonderful gift to any choir acoustically, but the Simmons organ means there will always be provision at St. Paul's for a choir to sing certain repertoire near the front of the Church.



The Simmons organ will be a truly outstanding addition to our already rich music program. The removal of the current transept organ additionally will reveal a mural which has been obscured since 1959, restoring some of the church's original beauty and architectural significance. The sale of the transept organ (stylistically a "product of its time") is expected to cover the costs of the acquisition of the new instrument. Should we need additional financial support, we will be in touch with certain benefactors who are very enthusiastic about the superb quality of the St. Paul's music program.



The priests and musicians of St. Paul's Church are very excited about the musical possibilities the Simmons organ will create at St. Paul's. We anticipate that this organ will facilitate the making of a joyful noise unto the Lord, for the greater glory of God and the edification of His people.

John Robinson, Director of Music