

Wellhead Snetzler Organ 1770, now at Halifax Minster

In 1766 John Snetzler built an organ of 3 manuals in the west gallery of the Minster. Some pipes are thought to survive in the current Harrison instrument.

Shortly afterwards Snetzler built a chamber organ for the Waterhouse family of Wellhead, Halifax. This organ has been moved around several times and became unused.

It was gifted to the Minster in 2015 and is installed in the Holdsworth Chapel on the south side of the Minster, where the descendants of its original owners are commemorated.

The instrument is very beautiful example of an English chamber organ. The fine casework is enclosed behind large glass doors which can be opened or closed. It also has the unique arrangement of the swell soundboard, shown in the photo below. Rather than being horizontal, the soundboard is mounted at an angle with the tops of the larger and smaller pipes are on a level.

Specification –

GREAT

Open Diapason 8

Stopt Diapason 8

Dulciana 8

Principal 4

Flute 4

Fifteenth 2

Cornet

Sesquialtra

Trumpet 8

Swell to Great

Pedal to Great (sic)

SWELL (enclosed)

Gamba 8 (TC)

Std Diapason 8 (TC)

Gemshorn 4 (TC)

Oboe 8 (TC)

Ratcheted Swell Pedal

PEDAL

A non-original 16' Bourdon was not moved to the Minster when the organ was moved from the convent at Horbury in 2015.



Pipework of the Great with the unique stepped Swell-box above

