



Customer Testimonials for Johannus Organs

Darwen, Mr Cooper

ChurchOrganWorld is without doubt the Premier Organ Supplier both in the North West & Southern England. I have had the pleasure to meet all the team at the Shaw showroom all of whom displayed a dedication to “real Organs” & their customers. I have purchased the Thirlmere & recently the Johannus LiVE III. On both occasions the installation was flawless, very friendly people to deal with who go that extra mile to satisfy the customer.

I recently ordered the Forster & Andrews St George’s Church Organ USB stick for the LiVE III which arrived very fast, the order to Johannus was placed immediately following my call to COW. It does not end at a purchase however as after sales (should you require it) support is superb, I received a call from them a few days after the LiVE III was installed to check if everything was to my satisfaction.

You are always greeted when ringing them with advice or even a quick chat concerning organs etc. I cannot recommend ChurchOrganWorld enough, if your looking for a real classical Organ then they are THE Company to contact.

Clitheroe, Mr Cunliffe

Playing the Johannus ONE keyboard gives me an immense amount of satisfaction and fun as well as serious practice. I especially like the additional “orchestral” sounds. Its portability means that others can enjoy it as well.”

Buxton, Mr Hayman

Being no longer prepared to practice mid-week during the long winter months in an often cold chapel and with a piano already in the lounge, I recently converted my daughter’s erstwhile bedroom into an organ studio and purchased the Johannus ONE.

I am used to playing the Johannus Opus 220, the analogue forerunner of the modern digital organ and did not know quite what to expect from a state-of-the-art portable digital keyboard apart from what I had seen and heard on the website videos. I needn’t have worried – the ONE is a (relatively) little package that belies the truly authentic and mighty organ sounds that it is capable of delivering. Additionally, the unexpected ‘Choir’ button is a delight and reminded me of Debussy’s ‘Sirens’ when I first heard it.

For example, selecting the German organ full registration (Trumpet & Posaune tabs ‘off’) and using maximum reverberation and depth, plugging in hi fi headphones (a ‘must’) and turning the volume up to as comfortable level as possible then balancing the organ and choir outputs with the Expression pedal (a ‘must’), play Stainer’s magnificent hymn tune ‘Cross of Jesus’ and one could be listening in one of our great cathedrals. At the other end of the scale, Karg-Elert’s opus 65 quieter pieces played with soft voices from the French or English registrations produces exquisite results. The ONE is equally at home with sparkling Bach keyboard Minuets and Gavottes and strings arrangements of Beethoven Romances. With the addition of a MIDI pedalboard I have no doubt the ONE is fully capable of satisfactorily rendering major organ works.

I also love the funky organ option with its xylophone-like tones for change-of-mood music such as ‘The Shadow of Your Smile’ and similar popular standards using the piano sustain pedal (another ‘must’).

The ONE requires a certain level of organ management to fully avail oneself with all its features and options and to optimise personal preferences but this is a magnificent instrument capable of downloading extra registrations to the existing registration options and is ideal for the home organist.

Guildford, Professor Forbes

So far, apart from my practising, the ONE has been used for a performance of Bach’s *Komm, Jesu, komm* (Guildford Chamber Choir). I’m now working out how to accompany the Vaughan Williams *Serenade*

to *Music*, with two of us playing as a duet. That's for three concerts in France in July. I'll report on that after it happens!

Churston Ferrers, Mr Fordham

I bought a Johannus LiVE III in March 2017. I was absolutely stunned by what I heard, and what it could do. Suitable for home use only, not for the inside of a church, the three-manual instrument can become five different instruments, depending on which stop selection is chosen. So it is suitable for German, French, or English taste, with sound sets to match from pre-recorded samples taken on location and stored on USB sticks which are programmed into the organ. Stops and their locations necessarily change to fit the organ specification chosen. They sound stunning. The organ sounds great, and can make any type of classical church organ music sound as if it had been written especially for the instrument. It has external outputs so you can connect it via these to a good quality hi-fi system. I have done just that, and with a subwoofer in the hi-fi system as well, the sounds are unbeatable. With a generous number of pistons, and a composition pedal, all of which are settable by the user to any stop combination desired, the organ is tremendously flexible in its capabilities. For a year, I have had tremendous pleasure from it, and cannot recommend it highly enough. You won't be disappointed.

Redruth, Mr Brown

First of all, I would like to say how pleased I am with the Johannus Organ delivered to me on Wednesday. I particularly would like to express my thanks for the efficient and careful way your delivery men were, in installing the organ into my Lounge and for their very pleasant attitude towards their work, they could not have been more considerate.

With regard to the Organ, I have now been able to experiment with the various effects available with the changes of stops and what a variation is possible, with very quiet sweet tones to full organ grandeur, the instrument surpasses the demonstrations I have listened to before purchase on the internet and compare with many small pipe organs. I wasn't able to get off the organ stool on Wednesday until I was absolutely tired out. I would recommend any organist who wishes to have the pleasure and privilege of having a home organ, to go for the Johannus Studio 170, they will not be disappointed, I am thrilled. Not forgetting the care and attention received from yourself and your colleagues

Epsom Downs, Mr Fraser

It is so rare, these days, to come across a firm where all the members, many long term employees, appear to function so well and pull together as a team or a family. All are so friendly, confident, efficiently well-trained, and so thorough at their job - a treat and a pleasure with whom to connect.

I have recently had a Johannus LIVE installed - the realism of the sounds and cathedral effect are amazing - you are in there, playing !!

Churston Ferrers, Mr Fordham

Organs, [well the good ones], cost a lot of money, be they pipe or electronic. The Johannus Live III is no exception, except that it is.

The organ is simply phenomenal; a quantum leap in technological progress in computer electronics. It consists, in fact, of up to five different organs in one console. And if you think about that, 25 grand divided by five to get the sounds of some of the grandest organs in European Cathedrals is cheap indeed. The CD demonstration disc does not do justice to what's on offer. If you buy this instrument, you will simply be speechless at what you can do, and what you hear. You can pretend you're in Notre Dame in Paris, but it's no pretence, the sound you get really are of that organ, which you can play right in your front room. Or, you can take a trip to

Dresden to hear the sounds of a German organ, and those sounds are quite different.

I am blind, but playing this organ, I'm like a child that has just been given its dream toy, and a lot of other dreams as well. I am amazed and excited almost beyond words. And for once, this isn't hype; it really is the real thing.

Whether you play Bach, or Franck, or Reger, or Messiaen or English hymns, whatever you ask of it, it rewards you in spades. This instrument doesn't just sound good, [even excellent], it's also beautiful to look at. It's worth every penny. And with all this technology, who knows what the future might bring! But it is more than enough for the present. It is simply brilliant!! Hats off to all who designed and built it; I'd love to be able to tell them what a pleasure it is to play.

Nottingham, Mr Hartwell

The Johannus Studio 170 is an excellent practice instrument for any organist. With its four intonations it is ideal for playing the widest repertoire of organ music from the pre-baroque era to the present day. My particular interest is the music of J S Bach, but already I have also been enjoying playing music by his predecessors from Scheidt and Sweelinck to Buxtehude variously using the Baroque and Historic intonations. By using the Romantic and Symphonic intonations I have already experienced the pleasure of playing Karg-Elert and some twentieth century English music.

The organ's versatility is impressive and I have no hesitation in recommending it to any potential owner. I also warmly and enthusiastically recommend Church Organ World as a supplier. The warm welcome and service from your teams at both Mixbury and Shaw could not have been bettered. I do indeed feel part of the family and look forward to meeting you at a future organ event !

With warm regards and best wishes to you and all the team,

Middlesborough, Mrs Wood

I write to inform you that I am absolutely delighted with my new Johannus Opus 270. Mark and Steve did a wonderful job of installation under somewhat difficult circumstances i.e. a staircase with two 90 degree turns!! The sound produced is so impressive that my small music room has been transformed into a mini cathedral. I would have no hesitation in recommending Church Organ World to anyone seeking a truly authentic sounding instrument.

Garstang, Mr Gaze

Moving to a much smaller residence led me to seek a substantial instrument which could be fitted in the limited space available. The answer proved to be the Johannus Opus 370 3-manual organ, which met the requirements for the following reasons:-

1. The instrument is already in sections to allow installation in restricted spaces, and therefore does not need to be unaesthetically "cut in half".
2. With 42 speaking stops. The organ is equipped with a comprehensive English specification which allows satisfying performance of music of all schools, with a choice of 'American Classic', 'Symphonic', 'Baroque' or 'Historic' tonalities controlled simply by four pistons. It is particularly satisfactory to be able to bring early organ music to life with correct tonalities.
3. The console is equipped with an abundance of thumb pistons with multiple memories, which takes some of the burden off the stops themselves, which are illuminated rocking tablets, mostly in a single line below the music desk. Initially I wondered if this might be a handicap to one used to drawstops, but, apart from the music desk being a bit high, I quickly got used to this arrangement.

4. The organ was installed primarily as a practice instrument, but even through (Bose) headphones it produces a truly pleasing sound which is not tiring even at fullest tonal levels, and when the neighbours are out I can enjoy this through the self-contained loudspeakers, which are perfectly adequate for the music-room.

5. The organ was delivered and installed without any fuss at all, my pedal-work has already improved and I celebrate the convenience of practising, not in a cold church on a very worthy but limited Willis, but on a very versatile instrument with all of my music library to hand.

Aylesbury Methodist Church (Derrick Matthews)

Under your admirable leadership, 'Church Organ World' has in my opinion become the leading UK company for digital organs. May your success continue.

St Austell, Mr Hitchens

My visit to your road show at St Austell Catholic church in August 2013 came about through an organist friend who suggested I went along to see your display of organs. I had no intention whatsoever in purchasing another organ as I have for the last 13 years had a 3 manual drawstop instrument in a walnut console from another manufacturer with which I have been most satisfied with the sound.

Upon sitting at the Opus 270 I was in raptures with the beautiful cathedral sound. The richness of each stop and the depth of the pedal notes which are quite something else.

I am more than satisfied, thank you one and all at ChurchOrganWorld. In my life, I am now 80, I have purchased 8 classical organs and I feel I know quality when I see it. I now leave my organ room with the word 'beautiful' on my lips. I would recommend your organs to any potential buyer.

Conistone, St Mary, Mr Fletcher

Conistone is a tiny village in Upper Wharfedale. We look westwards across the Wharfe to the other half of our 'parish' – the tiny village of Kilnsey hunkered close to the famous Kilnsey Crag. It was there that the monks of Fountains Abbey had their Grange, but it was across the river at Conistone that they worshipped, in the ancient church. Recent refurbishment revealed ancient burials beneath the stone-flagged nave [monks?] as well as re-used Anglo-Saxon key stones in the much altered walls and windows. A legacy had enabled the improvements, with an amount to replace the aged Compton-Edwards one manual electronic organ – but a further generous donation made the purchase of a new digital organ. The leader of the Music Ministry in the Benefice, a former Assistant to Mr John Pilling at Holy Trinity, Southport, recommended Makin Church Organs of Shaw, based on his experience of John Pilling's development in digital technology from the middle 1960s, and the care he had when purchasing his own Johannus organ about 8 years earlier.

The visit to the showroom at Shaw in 2012, with the donor, was most pleasurable, and Dr Harrington made sure that the donor was given genuine attention and regarded as a valued customer. We settled on the Johannus Opus 27SE as the best value for our purse.

The installation was perfection: having builders in the church at the time was a help since they were able to provide holes through the stonework linking chancel and the eaves of the nave, thus avoiding the sight of speaker cable wrapped around the pillar of the arch. The bass speaker cabinet was made on-site to fit the space available – and one now has to hunt with the eyes very intently to see the speakers at all!

The sound of the organ is enhanced by the acoustics of the church – not so much echo as 'bounce'; but I have to confess to adding the slightest amount of digital enhancement! The fact that the sound 'falls' on the congregation from high above them means that, in spite of my indulging in 'full organ' from time to time, my question "Am I playing to loudly?" is always answered with a firm "No!"

We have had a Recital from Ian Thompson [former Organ Scholar Queens College, Cambridge, Tenor Lay-Clerk at St Paul's Cathedral, Harpsichordist, Opera singer, Choral Director] who was most impressed with the range of possibilities, not the least being the 3 different voices: to the extent that he organized his programme in two sections Baroque and French [to take particular advantage of the growling French Reeds!]. He is coming again in May to thrill us yet once more.

I have played the organ now through more than a complete year – Carol Service, Benefice Services, Weddings, Funerals, and regular Eucharists and Evensongs with small [8 – 15] congregations – and I have never been disappointed, the villagers are always smiling – they love “their” organ. I am still discovering new things I can do – the piston setting possibilities seem endless, and I have yet to explore the different temperaments!

To say that we are pleased with our Johannus Opus 27SE would be to understate the situation.

I know that if there is any problem, the after-care from Makin is as good as anything a Rolls-Royce owner would expect from Derby, and they are not too far away – and when the ‘boss’ of the firm feels like a friend and colleague one has the right to play with a smile on ones face.

Loughborough URC, Lead Organist Mr Payne

I am delighted to share our enthusiastic satisfaction with this instrument. A summarized timeline demonstrates how quickly the project of buying the organ was realized:-

March 28th 2012 – meeting with Richard in church, preliminary survey and assessment

May/June 2012 – Elders and Church Meeting approved the project subject to sufficient fundraising to meet the cost in full

September 2012 – basic price and prices of accessories was agreed (these included pre-record, a full set of toe-pistons, speaker cabinets and acoustic-gauze frontages)

By December 2012 – funds fully raised by gifts/loans from members; deposit paid and order placed

January 31st 2013 – tactical meeting with Richard in church to finalize installation details

March 27th/28th 2013 – installation carried out; instrument was immediately “survival”-practised and was most effective on Good Friday(29th March 2013).

The whole process was trouble-free. The church members’/adherents’ generous trust has been amply repaid by (1)the courtesy, competence, skill and helpfulness of ChurchOrganWorld staff and advisers, (2)the quality, power, variety and adaptability of the instrument, which has been used for 3 recitals/joint-church choral services, apart from the normal Sunday services (including a Music Sunday). We keep discovering new resources in the instrument; it is a delight to play.

Storrington, St Mary, George Jones

Wednesday 14 August proved to be a significant date in the history of St Mary's Parish Church, Storrington. The stalwarts of Church Organ World's installation department arrived to deliver and set up our new Johannus D350 Ecclesia - specially built in Holland to supply us with an English registration. Richard Goodall's exemplary sales technique and administrative expertise ensured that our purchasing experience was as smooth as possible.

Our thirty year old Allen was removed and taken to a nearby house to provide a practice facility for a young organ student. This enabled the new instrument to be installed using a totally different concept of having the sound emerging from a position in the south aisle which used to house the old pipe organ. No more artificial surround sound from various locations around the church - whoopee!!

The skills of the installers ensured a quick and very successful transition and it was a great thrill to hear all the new and high quality sounds emerging from the new 'toy'.

I had already invited Professor Ian Tracey to give the inaugural recital on 11 September. It would be difficult to imagine a happier or more successful occasion. The Church had standing room only and it was a great privilege to have a musician of Ian's quality to provide a perfect mix of serious and 'fun' pieces to demonstrate the versatility and high quality sound of the Johannus organ.

Well done to Richard and all the staff of Church Organ World for making the project such a success!!

Ashton in Makerfield, St Wilfreds, Mark Southworth

I've just been to church. I'm like a child with a new toy. I've got my organ back. Thank you very much for what you and David have done. And more so a big thank you for putting up with me. It's always a big relief to know someone who is so trusting and understanding and patient and does a job to the professional level like you do. I may not be communicating with you for a while now but I know if I need to I am ok doing so.

Bromsgrove, Mr Deeley

Until a month ago I was the contented owner of a Johannus 3 manual Opus 60N organ which was installed in my former home in Birmingham in 1983. This instrument had afforded most excellent and reliable service over the past 30 years and despite its analogue technology, had consistently offered a very rewarding and realistic musical experience. Only very limited servicing and minor adjustments had proved necessary and this was very efficiently carried out by David Fetterman and lastly by John Coleman. However during the past year or so inevitable signs of wear and tear had become apparent, mainly in the form of troublesome minor ciphers and coupler problems. In consequence I had been looking for a suitable digital replacement for some time. And then, fortuitously, a pre-owned Johannus Rembrandt 4900 4 manual organ was advertised on ChurchOrganWorld's website as having become available.

In response I contacted the Shaw showrooms asking for relevant details which were very promptly sent to me by Nicky Howarth who subsequently also supplied me with all appropriate measurements and satisfied my few remaining queries. Upon the basis of this information I was confidently able to conclude a purchase on very reasonable terms, with delivery and installation by Steve Lanyon and his two able young assistants following a couple of weeks afterwards, and Steve Bell subsequently making and fitting an attractive bass speaker cover to satisfy domestic aesthetics.

I have to say that everyone I have encountered over the years at Makin, and latterly at ChurchOrganWorld, has always been extremely supportive, helpful, and courteous. This has especially been the case throughout the progress of this latest transaction during which Nicky has diligently and professionally arranged all the detail and logistics. Needless to say, as a very satisfied Johannus customer of long standing, I will have no hesitation in recommending their services to others and stressing their overall competence, efficiency, and cheerfulness in carrying out their respective tasks.

As anticipated the Rembrandt 4900 is a delight both to behold and to play; it is in quite excellent condition and looks as though it had been delivered directly from the factory. It had obviously been extremely well cared for by its meticulous previous owner and I would like to assure his family that it will be similarly well looked after, frequently played, and much valued here in its new home. Naturally there are significant differences both in technology and specification between these two instruments, both built by Johannus but some 23 years apart. In particular it is immediately apparent that this later digital instrument is strikingly much more realistic and truer to its pipe organ origins than the earlier analogue instrument. Generally the voicing of the Rembrandt is superb in both its available intonations, and especially so in the case of two very impressive high pressure solo reeds. At present however I am still very much embarked on a voyage of discovery to explore the instrument's substantial "rainbow" of tone colours and to work out its manifold technical potentialities. Clearly there is

much to be revealed and assimilated. But my progress to date has already more than amply confirmed the correctness of my purchase as well as opening up the highly appealing prospect of hopefully many years of enjoyable and rewarding use.

So very many thanks to Dr Harrington and his conscientious staff at ChurchOrganWorld, and of course to Johannus, for providing this splendid opportunity, and for making this joyous adventure possible.

And thank you too for inviting my wife and I to “Sounds of the Summer” at Mixbury on 4th May at which we greatly enjoyed meeting and hearing Professor Ian Tracey play his four well chosen and contrasting balanced programmes on the different instruments involved, interspersed with his informative and humorous introductory remarks, all being refreshingly lubricated by frequent cups of coffee supplemented by an excellent lunch.

Glasgow, Dr Burrows

I am delighted with the Johannus Studio 170 and happy to recommend it as a home organ of great quality and wide diversity. My visit to the showroom at Shaw was most helpful and enjoyable. All my contacts with the office have been dealt with efficiently. The installation team coped with the various hazards cheerfully, including the U turn at the top of our stairs. I was most impressed with the service and am now appreciating the joy of being able to practice at home whenever I like. Thanks to one and all. I can heartily endorse the recommendations on the website that encouraged me to look in your direction.

Carmarthen, Mr Jones

I would like to take this opportunity to say what a pleasure it has been to deal with your company. The recent transaction was handled in a most professional manner from start to finish, and I would like you to pass on my thanks to everyone concerned for their courteous and friendly service.

Kirkcaldy, Mrs Arnett

I really am enjoying having at home a Johannus 10 organ from Makin. My reason for buying one was to cut down on my journey to the church where I was organist, entailing a 70 mile round trip, after moving to Kirkcaldy in June 2010. About a year later a member of the congregation said they noticed a change in my playing and asked what had brought this about. I told them I'd bought an organ from Makin and could spend more time practising on the demanding pieces.

I have a temporary organist job at a local church but I'm not given the keys for independent access to the organ. What a joy having an organ at home to be able to practise at a time that suits me – starting sometimes as late as 11:00 p.m.!

I find Makin a very friendly firm to deal with and they are always willing to help me either on the phone or with a visit when they are in the area, if necessary.

Stafford, Mr Turner

I am very happy to provide you with a testimonial.

The Johannus Studio 170 which Makin delivered in November has solved the perennial problem of finding somewhere to practice.

It is a beautiful instrument and a delight to play. The specification is comprehensive for a two manual and pedal organ and there are powerful features which no pipe instrument can offer:- four complete sets of samples which allow the sound to be appropriate to the period of the music, realistic artificial reverberation and a wide choice of historical temperaments. I find the physical layout of the Studio 170 logical and pleasing to the eye - the controls are more than adequate.

This purchase was the result of a long-held ambition to learn the organ - this seems to be the ideal instrument for this purpose.

Churston Ferrers, Mr Fordham

I bought a Johannus organ from Makin a couple of years ago. I wanted it so I could play lots of baroque music, especially Bach, at home, and I liked what I read about it in its reviews before I bought it.

I have not been disappointed. In fact, I am delighted with it. I am a blind musician, and find the programming features of being able to assign combinations of stops to various pistons, [of which there are a multitude], very useful. The organ has given me many hours of pleasure, and God willing, if I carry on living, will delight me with many more.

Sheffield, Mr Sharman

The whole process of sales, delivery and installation could not have been bettered. It was delivered and installed at the time arranged and on the only day of snow this winter. Every care was taken of both the instrument and the décor despite it being required upstairs.

The instrument is exactly what I was looking for to provide practice and pleasure in a very limited space.

Makin did everything possible to make the purchase a pleasant experience.

Yarm, Dr Harrison

I am very happy to provide a testimonial on my recent purchase of a Johannus organ.

I took delivery of my Johannus Opus 37 SE in August 2011 after making two visits to Shaw as well as visits to hear other makes of digital organ around the country and an extensive internet search. I received a warm welcome, much needed refreshments and helpful advice on both my visits to Shaw and was able to try several organs in the showroom. The tonal quality of all the instruments I tried was very pleasing, but I felt the Opus 37 more than met my requirements without breaking the budget. My wife (a musician but not an organist) was clearly impressed by the realistic tone quality but was also won over by the choice of a light oak console that would fit beautifully alongside our light oak living room furniture.

I was very impressed by the organ when I played it in the showroom, but have been bowled over by it since it arrived. What a privilege to have such a wonderful instrument, producing sounds worthy of an English, French or Dutch/German cathedral in my living room. Having retired from full-time work as an economics lecturer eighteen months ago, but still active as a church organist and choral singer, my organ playing has now taken on a new lease of life - learning new works and relearning old ones with an enthusiasm I haven't had for years. I simply love everything about the organ: not only are there many beautiful individual stops and stop combinations, but the overall ensemble is extremely impressive. I also like the firmness of touch which is really helping to improve my technique. Indeed, I have often sat at the console for a few minutes after playing, reflecting on how fortunate I am to have such a lovely instrument.

I have no hesitation in recommending the organ and would like to thank you for the excellent service I have received from everyone at Makin. This was definitely a good choice.

Waddington, Mr Cunliffe

I could not have had better service from the Makin personnel in the purchase of my new Johannus organ. A true musicians instrument. Delightful to play and very satisfying.

Bispham, Mr McQuire

From the onset of the Customer / Retailer relationship Makin Organs of Shaw afforded me courtesy and hospitality at all times even though the purchase was modest due to the acquisition of a pre-owned Johannus Opus 30 instrument.

Nicky Howarth and the team at the showroom demonstrated a level of expertise that was reassuring so much so that the final decision to proceed with the purchase was made with ease on the day of my visit.

The instrument in due course was delivered and installed and further backed up with post sales attendance by way of re-voicing an unwanted stop to my own specification.

I would have no hesitation when funds permit to re-visit the facility at Shaw with a view to upgrading to a new instrument based on the excellent and courteous services rendered to date.

All Saints' Church, Middlesbrough, Tony Simpson (Organist)

Following a lengthy search for a digital organ which would primarily sound as good as a pipe organ, All Saints' Church, Middlesbrough became most interested in the Johannus Rembrandt 397SE. The UK supplier, Makin Organs (who had provided 4 quotations including the Rembrandt), did not have this model available for demonstration but they agreed to have one shipped over so that we could have it on demonstration, without any obligation to purchase. As we were to find out, this is but one example of the lengths to which the company will go in providing excellent customer service.

We had the organ on demonstration for several weeks and it was then decided to purchase this instrument subject to the grant of a faculty. A deposit was paid on the understanding that this would not bind the purchase if a faculty were not to be forthcoming, but the faculty application was approved very quickly and without demur. Makin's installed the organ in the organ loft in the place of the pipe organ console (after making quality alterations to the oak panelling), and the speakers were sited behind the pipes of the old organ. The installation took less than a day and a half and the result is aesthetically very pleasing.

I subsequently approached Makin's because I felt that the sound was in some ways muffled, perhaps causing some imbalance in the sound production of some voices, and Makin's readily agreed to take a look at the problem. Whilst the top of the swell box seemed to be the best siting for the speakers to give a much better sound, the situation seemed intractable when it was discovered that access to the higher level looked impossible. However, Makin's found a way and achieved the impossible!! I am eternally grateful to them because the sound improvement can only be described as phenomenal, and the re-siting has also cured any possible imbalance that may have been present.

The support which we have had from the start from the Managing Director and staff at all levels, above and beyond what we might reasonably have expected, has been wholly excellent. I can thoroughly recommend the Rembrandt 397SE as a very fine digital organ, and I also commend to you Makin Organs, a company which will bend over backwards and go that extra mile to provide customers with help, advice and customer service second to none.

Leicester, Mr Gull

Thank you for all your help and advice over the past week. The professionalism of your team and your own considerable patience and thoroughness have made it a real pleasure to do business with Makin Organs Ltd.

Oakley Methodist Church, Pauline Leeson (Organist)

I would like to thank you very much indeed for all the help and advice which you gave to us when we purchased the organ from Makin. The demonstration which you gave certainly helped those members of our congregation who were present to make a decision in its favour.

Everyone is thrilled with our new Johannes Opus 17 organ and I have to say that it is a delight to play and has already given me a great deal of pleasure.

We have found Makin Organs Ltd to be the very best of companies in every way and I would like to thank you, on behalf of Oakley Methodist church, for your excellent sales management and service. We are entirely satisfied with the new organ and matching speakers and we know it will enhance our church services for many years to come. Our grateful thanks again to everyone involved.

Wigan, St Stephen, Whelley, Gordon Hayward

St Stephen's Church, Wigan is a large Paley & Austin designed church completed in 1938. We had a small 2 manual Walker Positive extension organ (1963) which was failing fast. The Parochial Church Council decided to look into purchasing a new pipeless digital organ and I was given the task of sourcing a replacement organ. I looked at a number of different manufacturers but I could not find a suitable instrument within the constraints of our budget.

In the Makin News that came out in Autumn 2010 there was an article on the Ecclesia, a new organ from Johannes. This looked interesting so I contacted Makin and went to their showroom in Shaw, Oldham. I played the organ for a couple of hours and I was very impressed with the stop list of 54 stops, the way it played and the overall quality of the organ.

I contacted the PCC and also our organ adviser Professor Ian Tracey and, after much discussion, we decided to purchase the organ, with the addition of 8 symphonic voices, in medium oak to match our church furnishings.

In early February, after all the faculties were cleared by the Diocese, the organ was installed, the speakers being split on either side of the chancel high on the clerestory window sills. I asked for one or two small changes during the installation and this was not a problem for Makin staff - nothing was too much trouble.

Since the Dedication Service our congregation has had nothing but praise for the sound of the organ and the excellent way the installation was carried out.

I would like to say a big thank you to Johannes for creating this fine instrument and to Makin staff for their excellent installation and quality of work and service. Well done to you all.

Middlesbrough, All Saints Church, Father Ben Archibald

On behalf of All Saints Parish Church, Middlesbrough, I'd like to thank Dr Harrington and his team at Makin Organs for installing a truly wonderful instrument only a few months ago.

Our Johannes Rembrandt truly sounds like a 'real' pipe organ, and due to the expertise shown by the company's installation team, our new organ has been installed in place of our previous pipe organ console. This has meant that the organ speakers have been placed behind the pipe façade, giving the illusion that the sound coming from the organ gallery is that of a real pipe organ.

From initial enquiry right through to final tuning, Makin organs have been efficient and responsive with regard to customer attention.

Hand on heart, we would fully recommend that all churches looking to install a digital organ approach the team at Makin Organs. Not only was the sound of the instrument a deciding factor – the price was extremely competitive too!

Carlisle, Mr Paton

My experience of choosing an instrument and its eventual installation at my home has been very positive from my initial enquiry and visit to Shaw where Dr Harrington showed me round and answered all my questions. I

spent some time playing the various instruments there through to my choice of instrument (Johannus Opus 27) being delivered. On the appointed day Steve Lanyon and David Fetterman arrived on time and the organ was soon set up and playing. It is so nice not to have to sit in a cold church playing an instrument with ice-cold keys at this time of year. The organ is a real delight to play with excellent tonal resources and superb sound with the Cathedral reverb turning my room into a huge Cathedral.

Manchester Steven Mann

Many thanks for installing my new organ. Although I came to your showroom having already decided on a Johannus, the advice and professionalism I received from yourselves re-affirmed that my choice was a good one. Many thanks.

Southampton, King Edward 6th School, Martin Hall

We are really delighted with our new organ. It is such an improvement on the old one, with rich and varied tones and an impressive bass response. It led its first assembly and hymn with style and its quality of sound has been much admired. I look forward to getting to know it better in future years.

Dundee Muirhead Church, Graeme Tarbet

As organist of Muirhead Parish Church Dundee I am delighted to advise you that the office-bearers of the church decided to buy a new organ resulting in the Johannus Opus 27 being installed there last October. As you can imagine I am enjoying playing and exploring the organ and the congregation have noticed a difference too. Quite a number of local organists have been visiting the church and have become quite envious of us.

As you will know the buying of a new organ is a major undertaking for a church and a very anxious time too. In the course of exploring your website we were greatly encouraged by the various testimonials from churches who had been guided through this anxious time by the consultants of Makin Organs which encouraged us to proceed.

From the first meeting with your consultants and throughout our contact with them (including our visit to the Open day at Kirkcaldy in May) we were never subjected to pressure salesmanship and very confusing technical jargon (as we had feared) rather we felt guided by very professional and truly friendly people whose sole aim was to meet the needs of our church and provide a high quality organ at the price we were able to afford. This good relationship was enhanced when the consultants visited the church and subsequent contact until and including the day of installation of the organ which I witnessed and was indeed a sight to behold watching the efficiency of your staff. We are extremely grateful to and glad to have experienced the expertise of their company in a very important part of the history of the church. We will have no hesitation in recommending your company to any church seeking to replace their organ.

Walsall, Mr Poxon

Thank you so much for inviting me to this. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and Makin hospitality was excellent as usual, helping to make the day very special. Please pass on my thanks to members of your staff; they looked after us all splendidly in true Makin style.

Prior to this event I had only heard Ian Tracey on various recordings and had never met him. What a delightful person he is; so down to earth and approachable, despite his exalted position and virtuosity. He brings a breath of fresh air to such recitals. I particularly like the style and humour of his introductions – the way he delivers little anecdotes about composers, arrangers and other organists.

Once again, thank you for everything, for hosting such events, for valuing me as a customer, and most of all for brining so much joy back to my life through the wonderful instrument you have made available to me.

Upton by Chester, Mr Bird,

I would like to thank you most sincerely for the hospitality and Autumn Shades concert. The performance, as ever, excellent and I really enjoyed the new organ – the sound of which was exceptionally good and I can imagine being even more enhanced in a larger acoustic environment.

Skipton Baptist Church

My husband and I attended the wonderful event at your Shaw Headquarters yesterday and I just wanted to say thank you very much indeed for a most interesting and pleasant morning. We were very courteously and warmly welcomed by your staff who could not have done more to ensure our comfort. It was amazing to see so many beautiful organs in the showroom.

Then, we were absolutely thrilled by the playing of Professor Ian Tracey. I was a great privilege to hear him play such a wide variety of pieces. His introductions to each one were so delightful and humorous and it was good at the end of the event to thank him personally as we left. We had a super time and we are most grateful to you for making it possible.

Northampton, Dr Morgan

I'm writing to say I'm very pleased indeed with the Johannus Opus 15 organ delivered to my home a few weeks ago. In its baroque intonation the sound is impressively similar to a classical 18th century pipe organ, and with a convincing tracker-type key touch.

The intonation can also be changed to romantic or symphonic, and a very wide range of organ music can be played faithfully. The presence of three different temperaments is very useful to a classical enthusiast such as myself. The technology has advanced enormously compared with my older Opus 230, bought about 25 years ago.

When purchasing, the Makin staff were very helpful, including plenty of time to try out the many organs in the Mixbury showroom, and patient with my many requests for changes to the basic model. I thought the Makin staff were also very knowledgeable generally about the complex topic of pipe organs, and this is also most helpful when considering what electronic instrument to have. Many thanks for all your help.

Hunts Cross, Dr Roberts

The whole process of purchasing my Johannus Opus 17 has been an enjoyable experience, from the initial showroom visit, when we were made to feel most welcome and at home, to the actual installation.

The installation, from my point of view, could not have gone more smoothly. As you can imagine, excitement had been building in anticipation of the day, and you all arrived spot on schedule, complete with smiles despite the rotten weather!

Steve, John and Keith made the job appear a labour of love and I cannot thank you enough. Now the serious work starts of learning to get the most from my instrument, a task I am looking forward to with relish.

Church Stretton, Mr John Guy

Thank you to all concerned for the help and advice offered, and particularly to Dr Harrington. With many thanks and best wishes to all at Makin Organs.

Brigg, The Venerable Andrew Ballard

May I say how delighted I am with my new Johannus Kabinet instrument. It is a joy to play, looks splendid and fits excellently into the very limited space I have available.

Edinburgh, Mr George Heatley

The installation of the organ went very smoothly and, despite a good deal of heavy lifting by them, your colleagues who were here were a pleasure to deal with and provided any information I wanted.

Ealing, Mr Kelvin Meredith

Organ delivered and installed to my great satisfaction.

Burnley, Mr David Harris

I would just like to say I am highly satisfied with the performance and appearance of the organ and also the way that the installation was carried out.

Stand Unitarian Church, Bury, Mr Ian Southern

The organ has been installed fully to our satisfaction and is already the subject of highly complimentary remarks from members of the chapel congregation. It has certainly given a new impetus to our services at chapel and, from my point of view, the organ is a pleasure to play.

Coxwold near York, Dr Jim Inglis

I am enjoying playing the organ, which is now behaving well. I have played it for around 7 hours in all since your engineers visited me last Friday, and have had no recurrence of the problem. An intermittent fault on any equipment can be difficult to diagnose, especially as such faults rarely appear while an expert is present; but I am reasonably confident now that your engineer has solved the problem.

I am very impressed by the arrival on my doorstep of your service engineers, less than a couple of hours after I rang. This is superb customer service, and I do appreciate that the time scale on any future occasion may be a bit longer!

Usually I hate making major purchases, but buying this organ has been a pleasure. I was made to feel welcome, and was given as much time as I liked playing and Opus 7 (and other organs) in your showroom. There was no sales pressure. My questions were answered patiently and clearly. You made a modification that I requested with no fuss at all, and at a purely nominal charge. The organ was promptly installed.

I'd like to thank you and every Makin employee I met for your professionalism and friendliness. And all this despite the fact that I was only buying your least expensive 2-manual instrument. Well done.

Bromley, Mr Arthur Bingham

Thank you very much for your Christmas card and news letter.

I purchased a Johannus Opus 7 organ from your firm three or four months ago. I am no organists and a poor piano player but am practicing exercises for the pedals from a tutor by David Sanger.

I am really pleased with the sound of the organ and look forwards to when I can play the manuals together with the pedals!

Thanks again for a lovely organ.

P.S. I am 75 in March 2007.

Barlings Church, Lincoln, Mr Thomas McManners,

We are delighted with our Opus 10 organ.

Lichfield, Mr Eric Lunt

I am delighted with the instrument and have been very impressed with the service received from Makin Organs both during the time when I was trying to make a choice of instrument and once the order was placed. I shall be happy to recommend your company and organs to fellow organists.

Brighton, Mr Gabriel Arthur

I would like to thank Nicky Howarth for all the help she gave me, leading to and concluding the purchase of the Opus 20. I am very happy with the Opus 20, it is wonderful to hear the rich and genuine content of each stop. Many thanks and I hope we will keep in touch.

Huddersfield, Rev Martin Lowles

I would like to add my gratitude at the extra effort you made in getting an engineer to our church at such short notice. Also, I'd like to mention that the engineer who was sent was helpfulness itself. Because of his thoroughness, a second fault was discovered, worse than the one he was called out to solve. He really did do you company proud.

Blackpool, Mr Peter Jebson

What a privilege and pleasure it is to travel to this beautiful part of the country to play the inaugural concert on this magnificent Johannus Studio II organ at the church of the Holy Spirit, Bardfield. The instrument has a wonderful range of voices which blended to produce compelling sounds from the expansive romantic to the majestic and grandeur of the classical full organ. The manual action is perfect and totally responsive.

URC Southern Province Synod, Rev Nigel Uden

I had the privilege of being the organist for the United Reform Church Assembly over the past week and would like to place on record my great appreciation for the fine instrument that you installed for us. It was in perfect condition – it had beautiful sounds and was entirely appropriate for our purposes.

I first came across Makin Organs when I was in ministry on the Fylde Coast and heard the instrument played by John Dawson at the White Church in Fairhaven. I was profoundly impressed in those days and continue to recognise the quality of the instruments that Makin manufactures as I enjoyed the organ in Coventry last weekend. With thanks to you and your colleagues for making it possible for events such as our Assembly in secular venues to know the richness that a good organ can bring to worship.

Ipstones, Mr A Tyndall

The Opus 5 organ is excellent value for money and have recommended the range to a friend who is vicar of several Staffordshire Moorland Churches, where in most cases the pipe organs are in an irreparable state.

Great Bardfield Holy Spirit Church, Mr Brian Atkinson

We are highly delighted with the Johannus Studio II and although I played the first service, not as well as I could, I got a round of applause not only for playing but for arranging everything on behalf of the church. With my dealings with both Nicky Howarth and Jeremy Meager, we discovered that we had more in common than buying organs and it became a pleasure to deal with them in such a friendly manner.

Lincolnshire, Mr R Callow

First impressions – Absolutely delighted!

St Marys Church, Raskelf, Dr R A Berrill

Personal contacts both polite and friendly. Initial visit had excellent freedom for trial of instruments and was much appreciated. P.C.C and congregations very favourable of instrument and arrangements made.

Ruthin, Mr P Smith

This is my fourth organ and as always the advice was superb, and the value for money excellent – that is why I always come back time after time, and am always ready to recommend the company. Never have I felt that the company has pushed an organ on me.

The first time I visited in the 1990's, I had no intention of buying an organ, I just came for a look, but I left having bought an Opus 30.

Many thanks to all the team.

Stallington, Mr Stuart Mair

Might I take this opportunity of thanking you all for such excellent service and, most importantly, what I think is the finest digital organ I have had the pleasure of playing. I do not say that lightly as I have done massive research into many different companies' organs but the Johannus Sweelinck is by far the best.

Trinity Methodist Church, Castleford, Mr Brian Howe

I thought you might be interested to hear about Nigel Ogden's recent concert on the Johannus Sweelinck 30 at Trinity Church, Castleford. Nigel has presented "The Organist Entertains" on the Castleford Johannus in his own inimitable style for the past three years and before his last concert you may remember that he asked if you could slightly adjust the speed and depth of the organ tremulants to give a better theatre organ sound.

Well, I sat towards the rear of the church during the concert and I have to tell you that your careful enhancements of the tremulants to the various flutes on all three manuals produced a magic sound, - pure theatre organ tibias which ideally suited the programme and totally satisfied the organist! I must admit to having carefully preserved Nigel's general and divisional stop combinations in No.8 memory. Not much good to me on Sundays, but one of these days... who knows?

Many thanks for your visit to Castleford and for your continued advice and support.

Lytham St Annes, Mr John Dawson

Having been a member of the original staff of Makin Organs for some twenty years until my retirement, I am now delighted to find myself in the role of a customer for the second time.

When it came to buying an organ for myself, having the advantage of the Makin organ at church, I really did not need anything as extensive at home. However I did want a quality instrument and, preferably, a three manual instrument. So for me the Johannus Model Opus 30 was the perfect choice. I felt this would provide the ideal practice instrument - and so it has proved. The third manual is of course a tremendous asset in my case, and I would forego much to have this facility.

As you know, organists are renowned for having a very definite (and often violently opposing) tastes when it comes to the actual sound of an organ, whether pipe or pipeless. So for me it has been a great advantage with the Johannus system to be able to voice each stop note by note to my own taste, using the special Intonat software for my computer.

Mr Charles Common

My wife and I are delighted with this organ which has such variety and very good tone - we are still exploring stop combinations! It is a physically comfortable console to play at, and we have both found much pleasure in

music-making. Several friends have been very favourably impressed on seeing and hearing it - one comment we hear is “what good value for money”!

In the appreciation of most friendly and expert advice and reception given to us when we negotiated its purchase at your showrooms, and competent back-up service, I am.