



## Customer Testimonials for Johannus Organs



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## **Stowe School, Mr Kingston**

We were so pleased to receive the new Studio 380 today, very ably installed in our auditorium as a practice organ and occasional concert instrument for four current pupil organists here at Stowe.

I've had a quick play and it is every bit as satisfying as I remember from that initial test drive in Mixbury.

Thank you for your attention to detail and for facilitating payment over two school budget years. The whole process has been a delight and we are all most grateful to you and the whole team. I look forward to keeping in touch.

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## **Bromborough Mrs Mitchell**

I purchased my Johannus Studio-P350 in September 2022 after practicing for services on a virtual organ for two years. From the start, I was immediately impressed by the design and sound of the P350. The horizontal drawknobs and the three manuals make me feel like I am playing a pipe organ in a church or cathedral from the comfort of my living room.

The sleek and modern design with a minimalist aesthetic fits seamlessly into my living room. The ergonomic layout of the controls allows for intuitive operation, making it easy to access the instrument's full potential.

The heart of any organ is its sound and the P350 delivers in spades. The high quality 2.1 audio system gives the organ a rich, full-bodied tone that resonates throughout the room. The dynamic range of this instrument with 37 stops and various solo stops is truly impressive, whether playing delicate passages or thunderous crescendos. I am particularly fond of the trumpet solo and panflute solo stop on the great. I introduced the sound of my organ to neighbours during lockdown when I played "Carols in the Courtyard" with the windows open. "Carols in the Courtyard" has now become an annual occasion and the organ does firm favourites like "O Come, All Ye Faithful" justice.

Church Organ World staff have been very professional and thoughtful throughout the whole process of selecting the right organ up to delivery and installation. The delivery process of the organ was precarious as there was around 5mm space left to fit the instrument through the porch (this was after the doors were removed!) and the organ survived without a scratch due to the precise measurements and confident handling of the organ by the delivery staff.

Our house has recently been renovated and underfloor heating has been installed (2023) which meant my organ needed to find a temporary home. Church Organ World kindly offered to store my organ while the renovation works were going on. The instrument was picked up and installed once more without suffering any damage whatsoever. All in all, I am extremely pleased with the quality and sound of the organ and I will recommend Church Organ World to any organist.

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## **Isleworth Mr Bridger**

Having completed more than fifty-one years as a church organist and the past fifteen years at a church in Surrey with one of the finest pipe organs in the home counties I decided that the time had come to hang up my organ shoes but I wanted to carry on practicing and with just the occasional deputising job, therefore I needed an organ to practice on. My wife suggested that I buy an organ of my own. This time it was me who said, 'and where is that going to go!' However the more I thought about it the more appealing the idea became. I fortunately do have a small music room that contains a piano plus a couple of other musical instruments. I had dealt with ChurchOrganWorld a couple of times in the past for organist's shoes and music and I knew that they sold a variety of makes of digital organs. The criteria was that the organ had to be a three manual with full 32 note pedal board as that is what I have been playing for the past fifteen years. I looked at the various makes that they had and decided that my choice was between a Johannus Studio 370 or a Johannus Opus 377. I e-mailed Dr Keith Harrington to arrange an appointment to try the two organs. As I live in the southeast

I asked if I could visit the Mixbury showroom as it was closer and a date was arranged for early April 2023 and Matthew Pearson would show me the instruments. When I arrived, Matthew went to great lengths to demonstrate the two instruments that I was considering and then I was left to play each of them whilst he went off to make tea for my wife and myself. I took with me some Bach organ music, some English organ music and some French organ music to compare the different styles on each of the organs. After playing each of the instruments I decided to buy the Opus 377 as it was exactly what I wanted. I would like to say that the whole procedure was very relaxed; I was probably there a couple of hours.

Once I had returned home and double checked that the organ would fit my music room and I e-mailed Dr Harrington to place my order which I was told would take about two to three months to build.

Last week I received an e-mail from Dr Harrington that the organ had arrived in the UK and would be delivered on Tuesday August 1st, early afternoon. Sure enough, I received a call saying that the two people delivering it were about half an hour away. The whole procedure from arriving at my house to finishing the installation took about an hour and a half because the console only just fitted through the doors, and it just fits my music room. (It is worth considering ordering the organ with the split case option). I have now had a chance to play it and have spent some time today setting up two of the seventy-five memories for the combination pistons and I have to say that I think that my new Johannus Opus 377 is better than the organ which I have been playing in church this past few years. The sound is sampled from pipe organs, and I really can't tell the difference between my digital organ and a pipe organ, plus digital organs have features which pipe organs don't have. I have known organists who are say that they are 'purists' saying that pipe organs are best, but I disagree. I have played many digital organs over the years, and I think that they are excellent; even the late Carlo Curly had one. I'm sure that if Bach or Mozart had been alive today, they would have embraced the modern technology that goes into these instruments, especially Bach. A friend of mine also bought an organ from ChurchOrganWorld a short while ago which he is delighted with so if anybody is thinking about buying a digital organ then I would suggest that they contact Dr Keith Harrington who is the Managing Director of ChurchOrganWorld to arrange a viewing. There are many churches now who cannot afford to repair/replace their often very old pipe organs and for less than the cost of a rebuild, a digital organ could be the solution.

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### **Carmarthen Mr Jones**

I initially became a member of the ChurchOrganWorld family back in May 2012 when I purchased a two manual Johannus Sweelinck organ for home practice. This year, I decided that I would upgrade to a three manual organ. Having experienced the exceptional after-sales care of Dr Harrington's team for the past ten years or so, I had no hesitation in opting for another Johannus instrument, this time the LiVE 3TA.

The penultimate paragraph of the Home Page on the company's website states that 'you may see a digital organ but what you hear is a pipe organ.' Well, I think this is certainly true of the LiVE 3TA. The quality of the sound is absolutely superb, and I am delighted with my purchase.

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### **Farnham Mr Elliott**

I am delighted to say a few words about the Johannus Studio 370 organ which was installed in my home in March 2022, although apologies for the delay in writing. I belong to a church choir and have the opportunity to play the organ for services when the boss is on holiday, which I enjoy very much, but I always felt that getting enough practice time was difficult as my life is pretty busy with lots of other activities and commitments. Often I would turn up at church and find that there was maybe a funeral in progress or a yoga class or something I hadn't anticipated, which meant that my journey was wasted. I coped by turning up late in the evening when I was confident the church was empty but that is a lonely, and often very cold, and sometimes spooky experience which will be very familiar to anyone reading this I'm sure.

So that was my incentive to buy the Johannus Studio 370 organ: I needed a practice instrument that I could use anytime even if it was just for a quick 10 minutes. I needed an organ with a small footprint as I already have

a small grand-piano in the dining, now music, room. This organ fits the bill perfectly. The manual and pedal action feels just like a real pipe organ and the sound is all I could have hoped for. I love the realistic 'attack' on the notes. You can almost hear the wind travelling through the pipe before the sound develops and together with judicious use of the reverb/cathedral control it really does sound good. I use headphones when disturbing others is undesirable. Now I know that there are more expensive and seductive instruments available, and if space was no problem then how wonderful that would be, but for what I need this for, ie a realistic and ever-available practice instrument which plays just like a church pipe organ, it is just perfect.

The staff at Church Organ World were ever helpful and the installation was trouble-free.

Many thanks from a grateful customer.

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**Ingleby Barwick, Mr Maxson**

I took delivery of my Johannus Live III AGO last month and am absolutely delighted with it. The quality of the sound is outstanding and the ability to switch quickly from sample to sample, as well as to wallow in a generous acoustic or to practice in the clarity of the sound at the console is transformational. I cannot complement all of the staff at Church Organ World highly enough. Keith instantly understood my needs as a professional organist and warmly welcomed us to the showroom in Shaw. Delivery to our property was extremely efficient and professional; nothing was too much trouble.

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**Church Lawton, Mr Smith**

I would like to express my sincere thanks to you and all your staff for their kindness and efficiency.

From my first enquiry and making an appointment to visit in July, everything has run so smoothly. We were made very welcome at Shaw, after the initial demonstration we were left to browse at length without any pressure.

The order for the Studio 350 was placed in July and the organ arrived on 9th September (a date we will remember for some time to come).

As the organ was to be housed upstairs, our concern was access for the new organ up the stairs and removal of the old three manual Norwich organ, of some considerable weight and bulk down the stairs. When the Norwich arrived many years ago, a portion of the hall ceiling had to be removed.

It was not an easy installation for your technicians but it was so professionally executed by your marvellous staff in about two and a half hours and nothing was harmed in the process.

The Johannus Studio 350..... What a delight. Good to look at and extremely satisfying to play. A wonderful pedalboard, superb key action and keyboards. The sound of this organ is incredibly beautiful. I could go on and on extolling it's virtues but I now want to say a big thank you to you and your staff for your kindness and attention to every detail.

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**Stockport, Mr Ellis**

Now that I am retired, I wondered if there was any chance of owning my own three manual organ in a spare bedroom of my typical 1930s semi-detached house.

I contacted Church Organ World and they were extremely helpful and invited me to their showroom in Shaw. There, I was shown a sample of possible instruments and then left alone to play a few myself. Eventually, it was agreed that the Johannus Opus 377 would be the best for my needs, and they assured me they could get it upstairs. I placed my order and the whole procedure was very professional, and the organ was ready for delivery exactly when they said.

They turned up on time and, with just millimetres to spare, managed to get the instrument upstairs and installed in the spare bedroom. I love the organ (can't play it very well yet) but for the first time in 55 years of playing the organ I will be able to practice every day!

Thank you ChurchOrganWorld. They guided me through the whole procedure of choosing to installation of a magnificent instrument. Only wish I was a magnificent organist! (Never played three manuals before and I keep jumping to the Choir when I want the Great – but I'll get there!).

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### **Glasgow Mr Murray**

Thank you very much for your letter welcoming me to the Church Organ World family. Needless to say, I am thrilled and delighted with the 3TA. In response to your invitation to submit a testimonial I hope the following might be appropriate. I have also attached a photograph of the organ in situ, which you are free to use along with the testimony.

Having considered the purchase of a home digital organ for some time, it was lockdown that finally settled the matter. Without access to the Hill organ at my own church or the wonderful Lewis at Kelvingrove, both of which I've been fortunate to play for over 30 years, the frustration of being deprived of organ playing became very hard to bear.

A period of late-night research led inevitably to the Johannus range of instruments. YouTube clips were viewed, technical specs compared, sound samples auditioned and measurements checked, with the Live 3TA coming out on top.

An invitation to Church Organ World in Manchester resulted in a most enjoyable visit to the showroom for my wife and me. Keith and Corbie made us both very welcome and after an excellent demonstration I was left to explore the instruments at my leisure. The 'Live' instruments are certainly 'game-changers' and quite superior to anything else I've heard.

Before we left a Johannus 3TA was ordered; twelve weeks later Matthew and Steve installed the instrument most professionally, ensuring that I was thoroughly familiarised with every aspect of operation.

After a week of playing I'm hugely impressed. The 3TA is a beautiful piece of furniture in its own right, using top quality materials and with a surprisingly small footprint. At the console, it's a delight to play particularly with the optional upgraded keyboards which are well worth the additional investment. However the sound is what really makes you smile! The sample sets I chose are the Manchester Hill and the Dresden Silberman which are perfectly contrasted and provide a kaleidoscope of beautiful and thrilling registrations. The onboard speakers provide immersive realistic sound which has greatly impressed friends and fellow musicians alike, while good headphones give even greater depth and range to enjoy at any time. With my organ music collection now home-based, many enjoyable hours have already been spent exploring old and new repertoire.

In conclusion, Keith and his team have provided both an outstanding instrument and exceptional customer service. It's good to finally be a member of the Church Organ World family!

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### **East Bergholt, Mr Page**

It's no exaggeration to say that the purchase of a Johannus Studio 370 late last year transformed my musical life. No more wrestling with the logistics of church access whenever I wanted more than a single, pedalless manual – I had previously been using a Yamaha digital keyboard at home, fine enough for limited note-learning but not for real *organ* practice. Now I have something that very closely replicates the experience of playing in church.

If the 370 has limits, I haven't come up against them yet; it seems to quite happily handle everything from Gibbons and Sweelinck to Peter Maxwell Davies and Judith Weir via Franck and Howells. Yes, the combination

pistons could be in a more convenient location, and yes, I'd gladly swap the Great Gamba for a second 8' on the Choir, but I really can't think of another quibble.

Tonally, it's very flexible indeed, and the four styles (Romantic to Historic) are genuinely very different; the quality of the Choir Cromorne changes dramatically, for example. I almost always use the Romantic mode. Here the Great chorus is well-blended, the diapasons and flutes working harmoniously together in any combination; it's relatively mild until the 2 2/3' comes into play and then it's topped off by a Cornet that is almost as brassy as the Trumpet.

On the Swell, the 4' Koppel Flute is perhaps the 370's single most delightful stop, adding life and piquancy to any 8' without upping the volume too much. The 8' Stopped Flute and Viola di Gamba partner excellently for a lush romantic texture; the Oboe is assertive enough to make a difference to the chorus but (unlike the gruff Fagotto) also gentle enough to be used as a more lyrical solo reed.

The Choir is essentially a Positive, based on an uncomplicated and useful Bourdon 8', a much brighter 4' and a wide selection of pungent upperwork. The two "novelty" registers – Pan Flute and Trumpet – are recognisably not quite traditional organ stops, but not so weird and wonderful that they can't be used effectively in certain repertoire.

Organ management, for example setting the pistons at different memory levels, is very easy to master and I've barely opened the manual since I first sat down to play. Installation was smooth and straightforward, too, as was an engineer's visit after I (against all odds) managed to get a pencil stuck beneath the Choir manual.

A useful complement to the organ, if you want to record yourself, is a recording interface (I spent about £100 on a Behringer UMC204HD and associated cables) which essentially turns the instrument's headphone output into a computer's microphone input, allowing you to capture the performance without the associated sounds of organist breathing, sheet music rustling, keys clacking, dog barking and so on.

One word of warning, though. Whether you're recording, playing to an audience or simply playing to yourself, don't turn the Cathedral (reverb) dial too high; *everything* will sound fantastic, however sloppy your performance actually is!

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## **Roadie Mrs Cuthbertson**

I became the proud owner of a Johannus Studio P-350 organ in mid-June 2022, and I am delighted with it.

I chose the studio P-350 as its style reminded me of the two-manual tracker organ on which I first learnt to play the organ. As my organ playing and studies progressed, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to learn and play on two larger, three-manual electro-pneumatic organs, with their more extensive range of stops and pistons.

The P-350 stops and stop-combinations, give an authentic sound when playing either baroque, romantic or French organ music. I am discovering new sounds and combinations each time I play. And each time I play, I am transported back in time (not literally), entering a virtual world in which it is as if I am playing on some magnificent church organ, and forget I am actually playing in my lounge! For a home practice instrument, it is remarkable and well worth the affordable price, especially if you buy one in the current Summer Sale! The optional extra desk and pedalboard lights, are really essential, especially with a dark wood finish.

The Studio P-350 is compact and well made and a real pleasure to play. The continental style and the black Northwood finish, complements my home setting, and certainly adds a rather unusual feature to the room it is situated

Discovering ChurchOrganWorld and visiting its Mixbury Showroom, has reawakened my interest in organs and organ playing. So my thanks to Keith Harrington, Matthew Pearson and all the staff, for their advice in



helping me choose the right organ for my needs, and in the care and attention taken by those who delivered and installed it.

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### **Cupar Mr Greenaway**

I thought you might like some thoughts on my Opus 370 so here goes.

Before Covid I had a 30 mile round trip every time I wanted to practice on the three manual pipe organ in my church. This was very limiting but became almost impossible during lockdowns. Things became worse when I was diagnosed with cancer, so I looked for an alternative answer. Rather worryingly churches near me were less than generous when I asked if I could practice on their Makin organs! Disappointing response and hard to understand.

With an unexpected reduction in life expectancy, I decided to spend money I couldn't previously have justified. Having researched possible used organs, I couldn't find a three manual of the quality I craved. The choice left was to lower my standards or spend more money. Having had two wonderful experiences with Makin my obvious move was to speak with Keith to find out what was available. This led me to the Johannus Studio models which I then listened to online. Much more affordable than I expected. I was hooked!

The Studio 370 was impressive and very well priced but lacked some of performance controls I had been used to for sixty years, most notably separate swell pedals for Choir and Swell. When told that there was a special offer on an Opus 370, I jumped at the chance to step up to that model. It was the best decision I've made in a long time. I simply can't believe the sound this masterpiece makes and how "big" it feels. Everything screams out quality!

I'm now able to practice every day with the obvious benefit that my technique is returning to a standard I thought long lost. At a time when I need everything, I can find to enhance my life the joy I get now is indescribable. I just can't stop smiling! It's exciting finding new sound combinations all the time.

My intention now is to use the Opus as the centrepiece of a series of summer concerts under the banner "Music in the Barn". With support from singers and other soloists we will raise money for Cancer Research and have a lot of fun doing it! I'm so grateful to Johannus and, of course, ChurchOrganWorld for making this dream become reality.

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### **Dundee Professor Chadwick**

Thank you for all your help with the purchase and installation of my Johannus. I was pleased to learn that you all loved the garden pod in which it resides. Since its installation I have played every day for around 1.5 hours. It is truly amazing and far more convenient than having to negotiate practice times. As time has gone by my lapsed technique is coming back and I am re learning and learning repertoire at a rate of knots. Its specification lets me cover lots and in all the instrument is very responsive. So as is evident I am pleased with my purchase. So thank you. Your service at all times was excellent.

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### **Bracknell Mr Marques**

I play the piano since I was 15 years old, but I always wished to play the organ, (it's not very popular in Brazil, which is where I'm from). If you want to learn piano, you can start with an electronic keyboard, so that's what I did. However, if you want to learn the organ, even though the piano/keyboard fingering skills are somewhat transferrable, you can't work on your pedal technique.

For that reason, I decided to purchase an organ. A couple of months ago, I researched and tried lots of organs from different brands available in the UK. As I live in an apartment, I wanted to get a compact instrument—without detriment to quality and power. I wanted a nice instrument!

When I visited Church Organ World's showroom in Mixbury, I was very friendly greeted and I was able to explore every single organ they had available there. I originally had in mind to get either the Johannus Studio 370 or the Johannus Opus 370 model, but I was enchanted by the LiVE range, so I ended up ordering a maxed-up Johannus LiVE 3T-A, which is a very compact/feature-packed instrument: 3 manuals, 52 stops, orchestral voices, 32 bass pedals, 16 toe pistons, etc. A brilliant instrument with state-of-the-art sound generation technology!

Due to the unforeseen wait for my order to be finished in the factory, I was left with a loan organ while mine was being built, which was very convenient. It was a Johannus Studio 170, which sounds fantastic for an entry-level instrument.

On the installation day, Church Organ World sent two technicians and Dr Matthew, the consultant who originally sold me the organ. The installation was very swift and flawless. In the end, they've explained everything about the organ, including the "Great & Pedal Combinations Coupled" piston, which appears to be very popular in England. I needed some adjustments to be made a few days after the installation, which were actioned very promptly (2 days after enquiring). I was really impressed.

My whole experience has been very, very enjoyable. I'm very happy with my instrument and with the service that I have received so far. And kudos to Dr Keith for putting up with me!

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### **Barnard Castle School, Richard Dawson**

Director of Music at Pembroke College, Cambridge, Anna Lapwood and organist at St Paul's Cathedral, London, William Fox played the 100-year-old Henry 'Father' Willis organ and also a brand new Johannus LiVE 3P digital practice instrument donated by the family of Old Barnardian John Renney, who boarded at Barney in the 1930s. The new organ is the first of its kind in the United Kingdom and can switch from a 'French' to a 'German' organ using recorded sound from the original instruments.

Within a day of the new instrument being delivered students began signing up for lessons, the audience was told by director of music Richard Dawson.

Richard Dawson said: "The organ is a wonderful instrument and learning to play it unlocks so many musical skills. "We are thrilled with the new digital organ, for which we are incredibly grateful, and feel that it is a coup to secure the services of two world class organists to play it and our historic chapel instrument."

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### **Ilkley, Dr Parsons**

I have just taken delivery of the new Studio 370 organ. After 24 years (virtually) faultless service its predecessor was still in working order, but the quality and potential of the replacement are a revelation. Being lighter in colour, less bulky and slightly smaller it is also more suitable for domestic use. Many thanks for your usual efficient and faultless service.

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### **Marnhull Mr Binnington**

Purchase an instrument without seeing, hearing or playing it? Circumstances at the time prevented me from doing that. Having identified a Johannus Studio 370 as being suitable for my needs and fitting the space available, together with a generous financial offer, I took a huge leap of faith and ordered one.

'You won't be disappointed', declared a reassuring Keith Harrington.

A week in and I'm still scratching the surface of exploration, but I can record three things:- Everyone with whom I came into contact with at Church Organ World was courteous, helpful, positive and professional. A huge relief is that the touch is positive and conducive to good articulation. Finally, the sounds (and there is a comprehensive range available) are characterful. Practicing and playing is always going to be a pleasure.



I'm certainly not disappointed!

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### **Harborne Mr Browning**

Following the extension and refurbishment of our church we needed an instrument to accompany hymns and to replace the instrument that had done sterling service for the past 50 years. Flexibility was essential: it needed to be played by keyboardists as well as organists, and to be portable. Enquiries to Church Organ World resulted in Keith's suggestion of the Johannus ONE, and I visited the showroom at Mixbury to try it out. I could see its suitability immediately, and (with the agreement of the Vicar) purchased it on the spot. Its first outing was last week, and it was deemed a great success by all who heard it: "Just what we needed!" was the cry from clergy and congregation alike.

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### **Hanley Swan, Mr Meredith**

I am now the proud owner of a Johannus Live III organ, the quality of which is simply breathtaking. Throughout the whole process of acquisition I have received outstanding service from Dr Harrington and his team, and the difficulties associated with the covid pandemic were all dealt with safely. Installation of the organ in an upstairs bedroom can only be described as challenging. Access to the foot of the stairs was restricted, and the size and weight of the organ posed a problem. I was extremely impressed with the skill and care taken at all stages. Lifting of the organ up the stairs was only possible through the skill and strength of a very fit team! Voicing of the instrument was completed with professional expertise on the same day. My sincere thanks to everyone at Makin Organs.

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### **Birchington, Rev Crick**

I find it an excellent home and practice instrument, as I have to travel 7 miles each way to practice on my church organ.

There are 8 adjustable general pistons which can be set up for romantic music requiring frequent busy changes of registration. e.g. Noel Rawsthorne's Hornpipe Humoresque; but Pietro Yon's Humoresque Toccata for Flute comes off brilliantly, needing no stop changes at all!

Bach's organ music I can manage with hand registration only. JSB had no mechanical aids to registration, and not even a Swell Box. He perhaps had an assistant to open and shut the Brustwerk doors.

I chose the Studio 370 because it was on offer - "3 manuals for the price of two" and well worth the wait. The tonal sound matches the names on the stop tabs.

I use the solo Trumpet (on the Choir manual) quite a bit. It is excellent for Mendelssohn's 3rd Sonata. And of course for CS Lang's Tuba Tune in D. However, it has a bit of unexpected vibrato on it for a solo tuba. But for the Prince of Denmark's March (aka the Trumpet Voluntary) by Jeremiah Clarke I use the Great Trumpet, accompanied on the Choir manual. The Swell Chorus does nicely for the central section.

I've been trying out Guilmant's 1st Organ Sonata. The 3rd movement, Pastorale, has a dialogue between the Swell Oboe and Choir Cromorne + Twelfth to make a passable Clarinet. Also an opportunity to use the various Flute stops for variety against the Swell Celeste, Viola da Gamba and Tremulant accompaniment (no Vox Humana). But for the first movement I would need a console assistant to operate the Choir to Great coupler to bring the Bombarde effect on and off again.

I'm absolutely delighted with my purchase. Well worth the money, and the wait!

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### **Morpeth, Mr Brown**

I had been thinking about getting an organ for home for some time. I had owned one before we had the children, but small people walloping the keyboards with toy hammers etc, didn't do it much good, so that organ was left with the church when we moved to enable my better half to attend vicar factory (or more properly do some training prior to her ordination). The church had a Casson Positive which was assisted by a chorus of woodworm which had managed to get inside the organ and would not move, so donating the organ to them was welcomed.

We moved a few times and it wasn't until about 8-9 years ago that I started playing regularly again, but with the recent move of churches am no longer able to play regularly as there are good organists already in post. Then a certain virus appeared and the churches were shut, then with partial opening I did not want to play, to avoid passing on any infection I might have picked up at work.

To cut a long story short, I ended up doing a trip down to Shaw last year for an enjoyable morning (but I should have brought some of my own music with me - a room full of wonderful organs to play, and all I could do was improvise!). One of my early memories of the organ was playing the pedal lines of various bits of Bach with Dad doing the manuals on the piano at home. I mentioned the organ to my Mum who very kindly offered to pay for it in memory of Dad, and encouraged me to go for a more expensive model, so am now a proud owner of a Live 3T-A.

The organ is sat in a side room downstairs (that was probably the old wash house) and I must commend the 2 folk who did the installation. Minimum of fuss, followed by a properly physically distant and masked demonstration of the main features of the various buttons.

Going back to push button pistons from tracker action levers for stop selection was initially odd, but I'd forgotten how much easier it is to make changes in mid piece! I've thoroughly enjoyed revisiting pieces I haven't played for years (about 20 - 25 years ago regularly played a large 2 manual with electric action in London) - though I do need to do some serious practicing and re-learning! A particular joy was being able to play the 'Banquet Celeste' with the correct stops this morning, though as per usual the correct accidentals eluded me! Being able to play has helped me deal with some of the emotions that have built up over the past year - I can't express them in words - but can get them out when I play.

I've been playing an eclectic mix of music, using the Groningen (Schnitger) set for various bits of Bach (obviously), manuals only English music from the 18th Cent and Clerembault, and the Mossley Hill organ (Willis) for everything else. I may well get tempted into the Cavaille Col sample set (I do like a bit of Vierne), but that is for the future. As yet I've only scratched the surface of the range of colours available, so I'll be happily experimenting for some time yet.

With the move to a lot of church services on line, it may be that these will continue, even when the churches can be fully open again. So having an additional organ that can be easily recorded will be useful to my better half. But before that my Mum and my Father-in-Law have asked for a recital, so I need to get recordings onto a CD (although my Mum is now a whizz on YouTube, WhatsApp and Zoom, so may end up being live!). I may also think about organ lessons again, but that can wait until I've retired.

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### **Churston Ferrers, Devon, Mr Fordham**

A few weeks ago, I received a missive from Church Organ World, informing me that there were new sample sets available to be used with my Johannus LiVE III organ. As I already had some, I didn't take much notice, but later that day my wife raised the subject and thought that I might do some more investigating. So I rang Dr Harrington and after some discussion I decided to buy two of the announced sets. These were 'The Holy Name Manchester' organ, made by William Hill and sons, the construction of which was begun in 1870, and the Dutch organ from 'Oude Kirk' Vater organ, a baroque instrument, which began life in 1726.

The new samples arrived and were installed. I thought I would try out the Manchester Romantic organ of 48

stops first. So, without looking, I just pulled a stop out. The one I had selected was an 8 feet Tuba stop. Wow! The fanfare I improvised on it really ought to have summoned the dead to open their graves and walk around; the sound was truly amazing. If every stop was as good as this Tuba, then indeed my money would have been well spent.

By contrast to the Tuba, the organ has a lovely Voix Celeste, gentle and calming when used with the Viol De Orchestra the contrast couldn't be greater. Being a Romantic instrument, it has solo stops of Clarinet, Oboe, Trumpets, Ophicleide, [Berlioz would have been delighted], Trombone, Vox Humana, and so on. Each of the 48 stops has an individual voice of its own. And in combination, the sound of the organ is full, warm and rich. I played Parry's Elegy as a try-out and was not disappointed.

The instrument sounds wonderful, whether you play hymns, English organ music, such as Whitlock's 5 Short Pieces, or Postludes by Stanford, or whether you just want to play quietly to yourself for practicing or communing and just improvising. I have not found a weakness anywhere, and I am delighted with it; it is, perhaps, the best to date of any of the sample sets produced.

The Oude Kerk organ is a baroque instrument of 54 stops, which is obviously more suitable for the repertoire of Sweelinck, Buxtehude and the North German school, ending in Bach. The stops are laid out in continental fashion rather than the English way, and it takes a bit of getting used to, but is more authentic. The organ does not give up its secrets easily, but when you find them, the rewards are very beautiful. There are a great number of mixture stops, and I will be exploring the sound of this organ for many months to come, and expect to be surprised every day by finding something new. And you can't ask for much more than that.

In conclusion, Bach sounds terrific, but so will any good quality organ music, and I also have no hesitation at all in saying that it's well worth your money to investigate the sounds. You won't be disappointed.

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### **Glasgow, Mr McNeill**

Extra DIY in house and garden? Walking or cycling? Reading or writing? Yes done all that but at the end of November last year when my Johannus Studio 170 home practice organ arrived I had no idea that the global virus was round the corner. It was indeed a lockdown blessing.

Living in the same house for 40 years meant that the attic storeroom became something of a junkroom but recent retirement resulted in a clearout and conversion to a music room. Getting the instrument up the attic staircase proved to be a big challenge for the staff of Church Organ World but perseverance and brute strength won the day.

I think the biggest advantage for me is the issue of concentration. When you make the effort to travel to a church for organ practice you probably spend an hour or 2 there but I found I was losing concentration sooner than I would have wished. The convenience of a home instrument allows short periods of practice with breaks between them.

I had no expectation that the sound quality of a digital organ would match that of the pipe organ so for me it was down to size and price when doing my research. Having said that, the quality of the flutes and strings are impressive with the reeds and mixtures perfectly acceptable for a practice instrument.

A pleasant surprise is that I seldom need to use the headphones if I practice at a reasonable volume level. I carried out sound tests with my neighbours in our terrace shortly after the arrival of the instrument and they cannot hear it at 50% of maximum volume. I think their attics are still uninhabitable junk rooms! I only use the headphones if my wife goes to bed early one floor below!!

I think a big challenge for many musicians is coming to terms with our own limitations. My enthusiasm for the organ and its repertoire has always exceeded my ability. Attending recitals on wonderful pipe organs played

by the finest organists has often been a bittersweet experience for me. It is very inspiring to hear the finest instruments played by the finest recitalists but they have a habit of playing pieces that vary between advanced and impossible. On several occasions I have fallen into the trap of ordering sheet music for an inspirational piece played at a recital resulting in frustration weeks later as I give up the struggle.

On a positive note I have recently discovered many pieces that are easy or intermediate in terms of level of difficulty but are enjoyable and satisfying to play. I have also discovered some very clever organ arrangements of secular pieces which are great fun but would scandalise the congregation if played in church!

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**Chester, Hargrave St Peter, Rev Christopher Deakin**

The Johannus One organ that you very recently supplied is nothing less than fantastic. What a joy to own a portable two manual and pedal organ in such a compact instrument – actually NO, it's several organs in one! The variations and contrasting voicing between American, English, French and German are simply stunning and the specification of each is all one could ever wish for. What's more, it's perfect as an easily portable continuo instrument.

The easy to set pistons, record/playback, melodic bass and treble and transposition facilities ... and so much more, will encourage pianists and reluctant organists alike to take a greater part in our worship at St Peter's Hargrave.

When life 'returns to normal', I am planning to arrange a concert in our church that will feature our Johannus One; not only the wonderful organ sounds, but also the piano and harpsichord voices. I will even be able to fine-tune it to play the Wesley Organ Duet with our 'sharp to pitch' ailing pipe organ – something that's never been done before. Another first and a treat in store will be organ + brass!

Thank you so much for your excellent service in supplying such a versatile instrument.

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**Oundle, Mr Round**

I have recently taken delivery of the Johannus Live III AGO from Church Organ World and I am very pleased with it.

In order to cover some of the main types of organ specifications and the corresponding music written for them, I decided to order the instrument with four organs pre-loaded - two English organs (the Foster and Andrews, and William Hill), the German baroque (Silbermann from Dresden) and the Cavaille-Coll from Paris.

I am very happy with the choice I made, and the realism of the sound is simply fantastic.

I am particularly fond of English organ music (Howells, Parry, Ireland etc) and Baroque (Bach, Buxtehude etc) and in the case of the former, the diapason sound is especially realistic. Often I have found that this stop, the most important on the organ, is weak and a poor replication of the real thing on digital organs, but not so the LiVE. And in the case of the Silbermann, the bright upper work and biting reeds are particularly effective for Bach and the like.

This is the second instrument I have purchased from Church Organ World and I was pleased to find that the company continues to be very easy to deal with. Keith patiently and helpfully answered my many questions and the installation of the instrument went off without a hitch.

I recommend anyone thinking of buying a digital church organ should see what Church Organ World can offer first.

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**Doncaster, Miss Ruff**

It's great to have an instrument again and I know I've made the right choice, so thank you for recommending that model, it just fits the bill. My fellowship group are happy that they can now sing some hymns in our meetings. On reading the handbook I see that there are lots more things to discover and try out, but I'm enjoying the basics at the moment.

All went well when the two men came to deliver and set up the instrument; they were certainly skilled at their job.

So far the neighbours haven't complained, say they haven't heard me play. I do check that they're out before any loud playing!

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### **Todmorden, Mr Smyth**

I called in to your Shaw showroom without any prior appointment and I was looked after very well. On that first visit I obtained a lot of useful information about what might be suitable and possible for me to acquire an organ on which I could rekindle some skills which I hadn't used for more than 40 years.

I returned to your showroom with a number of questions about the Johannus Studio 370. I was given as much time as I wanted to explore the instrument and I appreciated that there was no "hard sell".

I have now had the instrument for a month. Installation was straightforward and whilst re learning pedalling skills is not like riding a bike, (i.e. you never forget) the improvement has already been very noticeable!

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### **Devon, Mr Coward**

Retirement beckoned and I was eager to purchase a two manual and pedal mechanical action house pipe organ of about five stops, auditions of electronic instruments leaving much to be desired tonally. However, having heard about the Johannus LiVE III, I travelled down to St Austell to try one out at a Church Organ World Roadshow, and subsequently took delivery of one in March 2017.

With a sound indistinguishable from a pipe organ there are many features unique to this three manual and pedal instrument of up to fifty speaking stops which make it so rewarding to play. Foremost is the fact that Johannus record real pipe organs, five of which can be downloaded to the "LiVE" at any one time. The sound is optimised for the seated organist and is fully immersive, allowing one to hear the sound either from the console or three positions progressively down the nave. It is an ongoing project to record new instruments, and many released already are of outstanding instruments. Having played many fine organs in London, none has given me such regular visceral thrill as the superbly balanced and tonally varied Schnitger in Ludgeri Kirche, Norden, one of three sample sets I currently own. This is equally at home in both Baroque and much 20th century repertoire such as Hindemith. The Cavaille-Coll in the Eglise Notre Dame d'Auteuil, Paris is another gem allowing one to wallow in the authentic sounds of Franck, and all the French Romantic repertoire.

My preference is to set the sound location to "Front" where there is a perfect balance between clarity, immediacy and sound enhancing reverberation. However, my third instrument the Maarschalkerweerd from Onze Lieve Vrouwebasiliek in Zwolle, which is a mixed bag of outstanding stops (including a rasping 16 foot pedal reed) and some less distinguished, sounds best from the rear of the church, and is particularly good for Brahms. There are innumerable tweaks one can make to each organ, but I leave these untouched.

Despite one or two early minor teething problems quickly and efficiently sorted by ChurchOrganWorld engineers, the exciting prospect of playing real instruments at home on the Johannus LiVE III seems a dream I never could have imagined. I concede that a tiny mechanical action pipe organ has the advantage of involving one more in musical finesse, but the dry sound and limited tonal resources are limitations which the "LiVE III" resoundingly overcomes at about a third of the cost.

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### **Manchester, Mr Mann**



I would like to thank the ChurchOrganWorld team for a faultless installation and to say how great value the Opus 370 is for a 3 manual - particularly impressed with the latest swell pedals which really do feel and sound like a pipe organ swell right to the end of the pedal travel.

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### **Dundee, Dr Stevenson**

To be honest, I was rather apprehensive about replacing my Johannes Opus 27 which had given me so many years of trouble free service with a completely different type of digital organ. The authenticity and quality of sound of the Dresden, Utrecht and Paris samples on my new Johannes Live 2T organ quickly disposed of any regrets at parting with a much-cherished instrument.

I am never likely to change my conviction that the modern UK console is the most convenient way of controlling and organ but the generous number of memories for each of the sampled organs and pistons does make stop changes easy to negotiate. The actual console casework is the most attractive I've seen for a home organ.

As I have come to expect, dealing with ChurchOrganWorld has been a happy and pleasant experience. Many thanks to you and your colleagues.

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### **Rowley Regis, Heath Street Methodist Church, Eric Parkes**

It was in the middle of June on Sunday night that our church organ broke down in church. Right away it was decided to have a new organ. A church near us had a Makin instrument, which my wife and I had both played on occasions and rather liked very much. So, we got in touch with ChurchOrganWorld who came to meet us in church to see what sort of organ we should have based on the size of the church. Mr Goodall could not have been more helpful.

He suggested that we have a two manual Johannes instrument and that my wife and I should go and try one for ourselves in the Mixbury showroom near Brackley. When we got to the showroom we had a shock as there were organs all around the large converted barn. Again, we were made very welcome with a nice drink.

Richard played the organ first and then invited us to play; it was one of the nicest church organ sounds we had heard. After a short while, we decided to have the organ for our church and after about three weeks, it was installed. Both my wife and I have played it around four times in services and both of us are thrilled with it, as are the congregation.

ChurchOrganWorld and Mr Goodall could not have been more helpful. At no time did they put any pressure on us to purchase the organ. We would like to thank all concerned for their help.

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### **Capel Gad, Bodffordd, Anglesey, Gareth Glynn**

I was tasked with finding an organ to replace the electronic instrument which had been in our village chapel in Bodffordd since 2000, and I'm so glad that my searches came up with ChurchOrganWorld. The help and advice given by Dr Keith Harrington has been nothing short of exemplary: he made the not inconsiderable journey to central Anglesey to see for himself where a new organ should go, and under what circumstances it would be used, and on this basis made the recommendation, in a highly detailed and instructive report, that the ideal instrument for us should be the Johannes Studio 170. The price, including delivery and installation, was extremely attractive, and we went ahead unhesitatingly.

Dr Harrington himself returned for the installation, which was done with great efficiency, and he then gave a tutorial on the use of the organ to our rota of seven organists, who were encouraged to ask questions, each of which was answered to their complete satisfaction. We were all enthralled by the sound of the instrument, which, for an organ of its size and price, has to be heard to be believed; and the organists were particularly impressed with the fact that it is equipped with thumb pistons (a facility absent from the old organ) and with the sound combinations that Dr Harrington had already programmed into the customisable set. Even more important



to us was the excellently-designed Manual Bass function. As many of the organists on the rota are primarily pianists, they prefer to keep to the organ's manuals, but others are prepared to make some use of the pedalboard (which is a full, 30-note, radiating concave one usually associated with much more comprehensively-equipped instruments), so the Studio 170 suits us all. I have even found that, with Manual Bass switched on, I can pick and choose, even in mid-hymn, whether I'll venture some pedalling or let the organ work its auto-pedalling magic, whether this is strictly what is intended in the design or not!

Capel Gad is a small chapel in the countryside, with a modest congregation to match (maybe 20-30), but, as with all Welsh people, we make up for it with some pretty lusty singing, and the instrument is more than a match for us. By now I'm sure that all the members of the congregation, and many visitors, have come to the organ at the end of the service to marvel at it.

Having had the Studio 170 for nearly a year, all of us here at Capel Gad, Bodffordd are delighted with it; what's more, there are many features that I haven't yet fully explored, including its seemingly limitless customisable features. If it's felt that a tweak here and there in the combination settings might be called for, then I'm looking forward to delving more deeply into the comprehensive manual that comes with the organ.

On the basis of our experiences with ChurchOrganWorld, I can unhesitatingly recommend the company and its products to anyone looking for an instrument of the highest quality.

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### **Radlett, Mr Cross**

"A whole different ball game."

Retirement approached along with Grade VIII as well! After 5 very happy years with a Makin 'Village' Organ, it was time to upgrade to three manuals. I tried various possibilities at Mixbury. Even a short inspection of the Johannus LiVE III suggested it would provide a great replacement and upgrade. On my third visit I took my teacher (Director of Music at a Cambridge College) with me to try it. Using non-technical language; "This organ", he exclaimed, "is a whole different ball game!"

My LiVE III arrived three months ago and has brought me endless interest and pleasure. I can play Buxtehude as if on a Schnitger organ, Bach on a Silbermann, Mendelssohn on a Dutch Maarschalkerweerd, Franck on a Cavaille-Coll, and Parry on Forster & Andrews. The five samples are distinctive, equally realistic and convincing from thrilling 32-foot reeds and flues to ringing upperwork; each is a whole different sound-world transporting me between different musical schools and eras at the press of a switch. Getting to know 5 organs has been a fascinating experience.

A further and important welcome feature of the LiVE III for me is the exceptional crisp quality of its key-action. The touch is excellent and has (according to my teacher) brought about a step-change in my articulation of Baroque music.

The approachability and helpfulness of Church Organ World personnel in making the choice, installation and servicing has been second to none. All concerned have been a pleasure to deal with, not to mention wonderfully patient. The whole experience has been excellent.

I have had hours of delight from my Johannus LiVE III and would commend it strongly to anyone looking for a 3-manual digital organ for their home.

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### **Leicester, Mr Archer**

Everything has gone so smoothly since my initial visit to Mixbury. Everybody has been so courteous and professional. The organ is even better than I had anticipated!

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### **Holy Family RC Church, Freckleton, Mrs Helen McDowell**

ChurchOrganWorld were very helpful in helping us chose an organ for our church. The delivery and installation was excellent and they have also provided excellent aftercare service.

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**Burry Port Carmel Chapel, Mrs Jenkins**

After many years the time had come to replace our old pipe organ. The decision was made to have a new digital organ. On behalf of the members of the chapel I would like to thank you for your help in choosing a suitable organ for the chapel. Richard Goodall visited the chapel and his advice and help at the initial stage was invaluable.

We feel very proud that we were in a position to replace the old organ with a modern instrument which gives the congregation such pride and enjoyment. Many thanks to all your team.

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**Gravesend, Mr Fry**

It is now nearly a week since I received my own Johannus Studio 170 in light oak finish, delivered and carefully installed by your two engineers, ('Steve one' and 'Steve two') who also exchanged it for the dark oak one you had kindly lent me since mine became available.

I am delighted to have such a fine instrument, never having dreamed that such a thing would be possible, and I would like to thank you, and each member of your staff for being very helpful at every stage. Particularly I would like to thank you for so thoughtfully offering to let me have one on loan from your showroom for two months until mine was built.

As it happened, during that time a dear friend of mine received an injury through no fault of her own which was relentlessly painful, and at the age of 90 has made her understandably quite depressed and despondent. However, she loves the sound of the organ, and on a number of occasions when she had been feeling particularly low, the sound of the organ has been the only sure solace. Tunes of hymns learnt first in childhood enable her to recall clearly the words, and this has been the only thing which could be relied upon to dispel clouds of darkness during that difficult period. I am most grateful to you.

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**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.

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**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."

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## **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.

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## **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!

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## **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.

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## **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

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### **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 !!

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### **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.

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### **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,

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**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.

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**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.

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**Aylesbury Methodist Church (Derrick Matthews)**

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

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**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.

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### **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 one's face.

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### **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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 2013 – tactical meeting with Richard in church to finalize installation details

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

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### **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 Johannes 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 Johannes organ.

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

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### **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.

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### **Bromsgrove, Mr Deeley**

Until a month ago I was the contented owner of a Johannes 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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 Johannus 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.

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**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 Johannus. 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 Johannus for creating this fine instrument and to Makin staff for their excellent installation and quality of work and service. Well done to you all.

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### **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 Johannus 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!

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **Southampton, King Edward 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### **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.

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### **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 bringing so much joy back to my life through the wonderful instrument you have made available to me.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**Ealing, Mr Kelvin Meredith**

Organ delivered and installed to my great satisfaction.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**Barlings Church, Lincoln, Mr Thomas McManners,**

We are delighted with our Opus 10 organ.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**Lincolnshire, Mr R Callow**

First impressions – Absolutely delighted!

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**Trinity Methodist Church, Castleford, Mr Brian Howe**

I thought you might be interested to hear about Nigel Ogden's recent concert on the Johannes Sweeninck 30 at Trinity Church, Castleford. Nigel has presented "The Organist Entertains" on the Castleford Johannes 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 timbres 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.

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**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 Johannes 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 Johannes system to be able to voice each stop note by note to my own taste, using the special Intonat software for my computer.

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**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.