

Centenary Memorial for Lubaga Cathedral: A new Pipe Organ!



Artistic Impression of The New Pipe Organ

To all people of good will and friends of Lubaga Cathedral,

We are embarking on a program to enrich the life of our community through the beauty of a new Pipe Organ in Lubaga Cathedral. This instrument will greatly enhance our music tradition and add to our worship experience. It has been said that no other instrument acts so powerfully as a medium of both meditation and celebration. This is why it is called the King of Instruments due to its complexity, magnitude and beauty of sound. Its many pipes can be roughly compared to putting thousands of instruments of an orchestra together and having them played by one person, with hands and feet!

Many visitors to the Cathedral quickly realise that a Cathedral of this magnitude and significance misses a Pipe Organ. A Pipe Organ is not only a musical instrument, but also a monument that adds to the beauty of the Cathedral and completes it. A Cathedral of such magnificence, and

architectural beauty; its liturgical, cultural, social and historical significance; its national and international appeal, its place as a heritage of Christianity in Africa, deserves an equally magnificent and beautiful instrument that fits it. This is both a local and international project. In addition to promoting local music skills, and craftsmanship related to the construction and maintenance of pipe organs, this project will also promote international cooperation and cultural exchange.

The idea of having a beautiful Pipe Organ for the Cathedral is not new. So many Christians have expressed the wish to have this instrument in our Cathedral. The question has always been the same: How do we get there? After 100 years of the Cathedral's existence, we can as well follow in the footsteps of those who built it, and put up something extraordinary, as a centenary memorial, and in recognition of earlier efforts to construct and maintain the Cathedral. We are pleased to inform you that the necessary groundwork and preparations have been done, the Rieger Organ company in Austria has completed the design and planning of technical work involved. And now with the blessing of the Archbishop and the support of many Christians in Uganda and abroad, we are ready to start.

Design

Pipe Organs are huge instruments; they are architectural constructions that are designed to meet the specifications of the respective Church. The Organ builder managed to come up with a concept of an instrument that freely stands on its own, right within the congregation where the Choir sits. This is because a special gallery for such a huge instrument was not planned during the construction of the Cathedral. The walls and pillars of the Church remain untouched, so that the Church retains its architectural integrity. The martyrs Altar will not be completely obstructed, part of it will still be seen from the front, and there is still plenty of space for a good perspective below, and behind the Organ. The Keyboard Console will be near the Choir, connected to the Organ, and driving it electronically. The Organ will 'rest' 3 meters above head- height on 4 slender metal columns. This will give the viewer the impression that it is 'floating' above the choir, which gives the whole design a certain lightness, despite its size. It will be supported by a steel frame, which will rest on the floor with 4 metal supports. This steel frame will extend to half the height of the 13 m high Organ. The colours of the organ casings will rhyme with the Cathedral. On the top will be figures of 2 angels playing Enkwanzi (Panpipes) and Endingidi (Tube fiddle) respectively. These two instruments will also feature among the stops of the organ and their sounds imitated. The front will have horizontal trumpets (named Lubaga Trumpets) and reserved for special cathedral ceremonies. At the front are to be found the words "Laudate Dominum" with a hollow cross with special light effects.

Pipes and Sound

The Pipe Organ will have 43 sound stops, 3 manuals with pedal section, and 2,636 pipes. Not any two of the pipes are identical. The largest pipe is around six meters long and 25 cm thick; the smallest is the size of a pencil. Some

pipes are made of wood, while the majority are made of metal. Their sound is also very different: there are loud and quiet, high and low pipes. Some sound like delicate string instruments, others imitate woodwind and brass instruments. The aim of this conceptual tonal design is to achieve an instrument that is suitable for liturgical use in the Cathedral and on which a large part of the organ literature can be performed convincingly. This requires an organ that has a rich, warm tone, a substantial palette of tonal colours and a wide dynamic range. The organ must assist in creating the correct atmosphere, ranging from solemn moments of quiet introspection to festive occasions of praise and jubilation. It must have sufficient fundamental tone to 'carry' the congregational singing of several thousand worshippers, but also enough soft stops to provide delicate and varied accompaniments for the choir and other musicians. In addition, it should be able to render the rather slender brilliance required for some of the greatest organ compositions.

Fundraising

From time to time the Christian community is called upon to undertake big projects that help to shape and build the local church in various ways. Lubaga Cathedral was built through immense mobilisation coupled with religious zeal at the time, with the majority of funds and materials coming from local communities. While a pipe organ fundraising campaign requires dedicated labour, it has been proven over and over again that it remains an enjoyable and satisfying experience for all participants.

A project of this magnitude is quite challenging; above all it will require the faith and will to raise the required funds to see this project through, for the greater glory of God and the edification of the faithful. The project cost is 4.92 bn Uganda shs. The contract will be signed and work is scheduled to begin as soon as we have 30% of the cost of the instrument next year. The instrument is scheduled to be completed and installed in 2027/28. We shall join together as Family of God to put together this great instrument, through a carefully organised fundraising method. The faithful will be invited to buy pipes for themselves, or their friends, family and relatives and thus seal their names to an instrument built for Eternity.

Thank you for your support of this most worthy addition to our Cathedral. We all hope to share the inspiration this new instrument will bring to our lives.

For further information, please do follow all developments on the Website below:

Website: www.lubagacathedral-pipeorgan.com

***Fr. Dr. Mayanja Gonzaga Lutwama,
On behalf of the Pipe Organ Committee.***

*****Payment Accounts**

GERMANY

Förderverein für Orgelbau und Kirchenmusik in Uganda e.V.

Kreissparkasse Biberach

IBAN: DE96 6545 0070 0008 8732 08 BIC: SBCR DE 66

UGANDA

Centenary Bank

UGX Account 31 0011 5443

USD Account 31 0011 5444

EUR Account 31 0011 5445

MTN Mobile Account: 30 21 37 (use MoMo App or *165*3#)

*****Contacts**

Uganda

Chancellery, Kampala Archdiocese, +256 782 026 616

Fr. Joseph Mpagi, +256 757 328 237

Fr. Joseph Katende, +256 702 018 120

Mr. Francis Sserubambula, +256 772 500 641

Germany

Förderverein für Orgelbau und Kirchenmusik in Uganda e.V.

c/o Father Dr. Mayanja Gonzaga Lutwama

Kirchenberg 3, 88499 Riedlingen - Germany

Tel.: +49 162 798 6880, mayanjagl@yahoo.com

Fr. Simon Mbeera, Tel.: +49 152 119 189 49

Fr. David Lubuulwa, Tel.: +49 178 667 4534

Mr. Robert Kabuye, Tel.: +49 151 677 708 36

United Kingdom

Mr. Michael Bukenya, +44 7481 493 829

Mr. Noah Kyeyune, +44 7460 481 508

Italy

Fr. Denis Lwegaba, +256 774 989 868

Mr. Anthony Ssembatya, +49 1521 2397 291

USA: Mr. Michael Mukisa, +1 (781) 775-2946

Canada: Mr. Charles Afayo, +1 (780) 200-4286