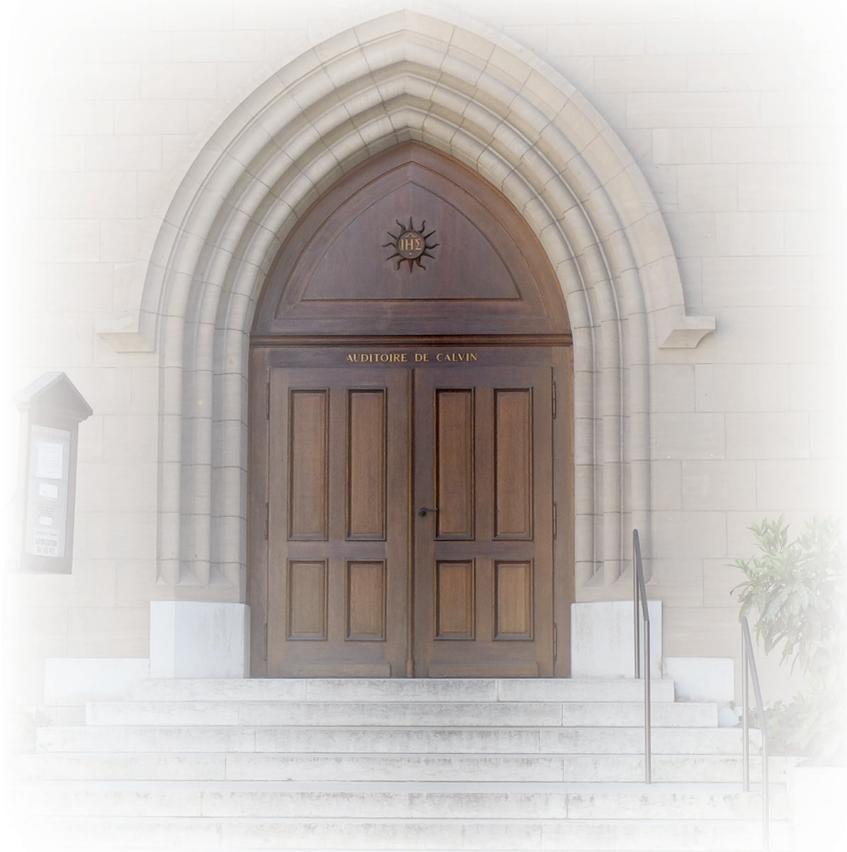




**The Aubertin
Organ in the
Auditoire
de Calvin
Geneva,
Switzerland**



**Inaugurated:
Spring 2014**



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Forewords by Honorary Members of the AOAC



Professor Philippe Dinkel, Director, Haute Ecole de Musique (HEM), Geneva

The Haute Ecole de Musique de Genève (HEM) is delighted to welcome the installation of the new organ in the Auditoire de Calvin, as this new instrument in such a high-profile site will greatly enhance the cultural life of the heart of the city.

The organ department of the former Geneva Music Conservatory, now known as the HEM, has always had a close relationship with the liturgical and musical life of the canton of Geneva, because many of its teachers and former students serve as organists, playing renowned organs in both Protestant and Catholic churches, as well as participating in a wide range of concerts in Geneva.

The HEM is therefore particularly happy to be associated with one of the inaugural concerts of the Aubertin organ, as well as the events planned for the Fête de la Musique. We warmly congratulate the Association for the New Organ of the Auditoire de Calvin on its fine initiative, and wish it much success in its future activities.



Ambassador Jean-Jacques Elmiger, Chief, International Labour Affairs, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), Berne

The New Organ for the Auditoire de Calvin - a Dream come True

Back in 2008, when the Association for the New Organ of the Auditoire de Calvin was set up, who would have thought that the organ would have been completed and installed by 2014?

It is through seven years of hard work by all of the Association's members, and in particular, by the people involved in raising funds and organising musical events, that this dream has come true. The mobilisation of substantial amounts of money and contributions by private individuals, as well as sponsorship from high-profile donors, were all necessary to make the new organ a reality. Bernard Aubertin and his skilled craftsmen have fashioned an organ that is a true artistic masterpiece.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to breathing fresh life into the Auditoire de Calvin – one of Geneva's most iconic sites lying at the heart of the musical, religious and spiritual life of the city.

It is now time to think about the future. I am convinced that the same vibrant forces that made this new organ a reality will continue to work to ensure that this new instrument brings joy and solace to all who cherish the Auditoire.

The Auditoire de Calvin



The Auditoire de Calvin (Calvin's Auditorium) in the old town of Geneva, Switzerland, is a beautiful, historic church with wonderful acoustics.

Originally built in the 5th century, and enlarged in the 11th, it was known as "Notre-Dame La Neuve" from the 13th till the 16th century. Today, it is mainly known as the birthplace of the Geneva Reformation in the 1550s.



Here John Calvin and Theodore de Bèze lectured on Scripture every weekday morning; and here John Knox ministered to the English-speaking exiles in Geneva, before returning to Scotland to bring the Reformation there. Calvin set

aside the Auditoire for the refugee congregations of his day.

Today, it is still a living church used for regular worship, with congregations of the Dutch Reformed, Italian Waldensian, and Scottish Presbyterian churches holding their services in the Auditoire. Reformed Christians from around the world consider the Auditoire the birthplace of their faith. Every year, thousands of pilgrims visit the sanctuary seeking their Protestant roots, and tens of thousands of tourists come to learn about this internationally renowned building, as well as the Cathedral of St.-Pierre and the International Reformation Museum.

Having fallen into disuse, the Auditoire was restored in the 1950s with assistance from the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, and reopened in 1959.

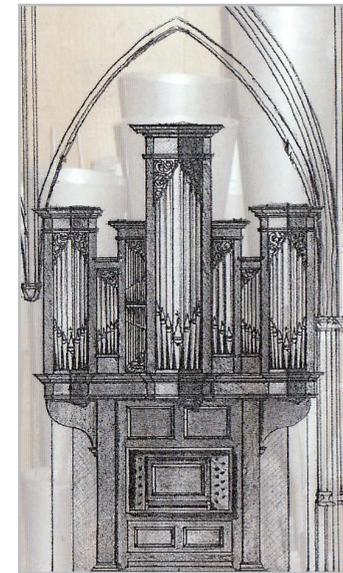
Since 2007, the interior of the Auditoire has been gradually transformed.

- In 2007, new fused-glass windows were installed, designed by the Franco-German artist Udo Zembok, symbolising worship (orange east-west axis) and education (blue north-south axis).
- A separate brochure describing the windows is available.

- Construction of the new Aubertin organ started in 2012 and it was installed in spring 2014.
- Coinciding with the final stages of the organ project, a full "face-lift" of the interior was undertaken in early 2014, comprising restoration of the stonework and decorations, fresh paint, improved lighting, and new chairs.

The new organ described in this brochure is designed to play a major role both in worship and in concerts and recitals. The instrument, made by true craftsmen, is a work of art intended to last at least one hundred years, and to benefit generations of people who use the Auditoire de Calvin.

The Dream of a New Organ for the Auditoire



The Auditoire has long been a focus for Geneva musical life; in addition to religious services, many first-rate choral and chamber concerts are held in the church, benefiting from its fine acoustics and intimate setting.

However, the limitations of the previous organ, dating from 1964, made it unsuitable for solo recitals, and it was also less than ideal for accompanying choral and congregational singing.

An initiative to install a new organ was launched in 2005 by the organists of the Church of Scotland, Geneva, after organ-builders familiar with the Auditoire confirmed that the existing instrument could neither be expanded nor improved.

It was decided from the outset to limit the search to local firms. The organists therefore researched appropriate Swiss and French organ-builders, visiting instruments all over the area. On that basis, a short-list of organ-builders was drawn up, and proposals were submitted during the autumn and winter of 2006. In November 2007, the group, advised by François Delor, organist of Geneva's St Pierre Cathedral, finally selected Bernard Aubertin, a renowned organ-builder from the French Jura, to build the new organ.

The overall cost of the project was estimated at CHF 600'000. Fund-raising began in 2008.

The bulk of the funds required was collected in record time, thanks to the generosity of major foundations in Switzerland, countless private individuals, and many talented musicians who gave their time and talents to the project.

The project has benefited particularly from the support of the Foundation Hans Wilsdorf and the Loterie Romande.

The success of the fund-raising process was largely due to the invaluable support of our consultant, Léopold Borel.

The contract for the new organ was signed in November 2012; the old organ has found a new home with a congregation near Düsseldorf in Germany.

The dream of installing a beautiful, high-quality instrument, which can enrich Geneva's musical and religious life, has thus come true after eight years of hard work.

The Committee



A small committee of organists and others was formed to spearhead the organ project. Two of the organists of the Auditoire, Rebecca MacDonald (Secretary) and Linda Revkin, remained to see it through.



They were joined by Rev. Ian Manson (Chairman), James Pittendrigh (Treasurer), Christine Bunn, Charles Revkin (Webmaster) and Peter Tulloch, with **François Delor** as technical adviser and Léopold Borel as fund-raising consultant.

The shared motivation of the group was to leave a legacy to the Auditoire and to thank Geneva for the privilege of worshipping in this historic place.



The Association

The Association for the New Organ of the Auditoire de Calvin, or AOAC, was constituted under Swiss law in 2008. It has almost 100 subscribing members, and

three prominent honorary members, Professor Philippe Dinkel (Director of the Haute Ecole de Musique, Geneva), Ambassador Jean-Jacques Elmiger (Chief, International Labour Affairs, Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Bern), and Professor Olivier Fatio (Founder and President of the International Museum of the Reformation, Geneva).

From the very beginning, the AOAC was active in organising fund-raising activities, including over 30 concerts in the Auditoire, a pipe sponsorship campaign (over 60 identified sponsors), a sponsored bike ride around Lake Geneva, a ceilidh (Scottish dinner dance), and appeals to banks, foundations, and companies.

Regular newsletters are sent to members to keep them informed of AOAC activities, and three visits to Bernard Aubertin's workshop have been organised.

The AOAC website is also constantly updated in order to keep the public informed of progress on the organ project.



Aubertin Organ

Bernard Aubertin has designed a two-manual mechanical-action pipe organ for the Auditoire de Calvin. The instrument has 19 stops (compared to ten on the previous organ) and two full manuals (the former instrument had only one complete manual). It is designed and voiced to project sound evenly throughout the Auditoire.

The organ case, built of oak, is decorated with symbols representing the Geneva Protestant Church, the Church of Scotland, and the Italian Waldensian Church.

The organ's specifications are as follows:



Bernard Aubertin, Master Organ-Builder



Bernard Aubertin is a master organ-builder based in the village of Courtefontaine (Jura, France) located between Dôle and Besançon. His company employs some 12 craftsmen, who use traditional organ-building methods. Its beautifully proportioned organ-cases are made of solid oak, with dowelled joints, hand-finished, and often display elegant ornamentation.

The Manufacture d'Orgues Aubertin divides its time between building new organs, restoring old instruments, and maintaining and repairing all types of organs.



Bernard Aubertin developed his taste for working with wood in his family's cabinet-making business in Elvange (Moselle). After receiving an Arts Baccalaureate and studying for three years at the School of Decorative Arts in Strasbourg, he designed a number of instruments for firms, and also did short stints on the staff of two organ-

building companies, before setting up his own company at the age of 25.

He taught organ building for three years at the French National Training Centre for Apprentice Organ-Builders in Strasbourg. Aubertin's instruments are all designed and voiced by himself.

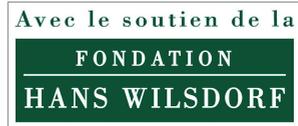
In 1994, Bernard Aubertin was awarded the Crédit du Nord Old French Homes Prize for his restoration of the 12th-century priory where he lives and works. In 1995 the French Ministry of Culture gave him the life title of Master Organ-Builder.

In 2006, he received an honorary Doctorate from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland for his new organ in King's College there, and for his work in general. In 2008, he installed a new organ in St John's College, Oxford. Other notable examples of his work in continental Europe can be found in the churches of St. Louis-en-l'Île, Paris; Crozet in the Pays de Gex near Geneva; Clairvaux-les-Lacs in the French Jura; and Mariager, Denmark.

The Association for the New Organ in the Auditoire de Calvin would like to thank all its donors who have contributed so much to the project : (*)

Institutional, Corporate and Church Donors

▶ The Hans Wilsdorf Foundation



▶ The Loterie Romande



- ▶ Maison de la Réformation, Genève
- ▶ Fondation de Bienfaisance de la Banque Pictet et Cie
- ▶ Moser, Vernet & Cie
- ▶ UBS SA
- ▶ Piaget SA
- ▶ Fondation Alfred & Eugénie Baur
- ▶ Fondation Dick van Nievelt
- ▶ Foundation of the International School of Geneva
- ▶ Church of Scotland, Geneva
- ▶ Eglise Protestante de Genève through the Auditoire Management Committee
- ▶ Italian Waldensian Church, Geneva
- ▶ Geneva Amateur Operatic Society
- ▶ Studio Choral - Claudio Ibarra

Private Donors

Grace Ansah, David Asbury, Julien Bammez, Alain Blumenstein, Léopold Borel, Daniel Bouldjoua, Irene Brampton, Christine and Richard Bunn, Dorothy Cooper (in loving memory of Don Cooper), Christine and Miller Donaldson, the Donkin family, Lily Geissbühler, Hazel and Arthur Griffith, William Heckel, Floriane Hostettler, Marie-Madeleine Jacquemier, Peter Jeffes, Joan Knight, Jason Leger, Hedy and Robert Lodwick, Rebecca, Robert and Robbie MacDonald, Roberta Manson, Claudia Martin, the Murray-Jones family, Pam and Trevor Perry, David Pittuck, Linda, Charles, Christine and Susannah Revkin, the Rietbergen family, Janis Schlatter, Alice and Peter Tulloch, and many anonymous donors.

*) AOAC is actively seeking additional pipe sponsorships and donations so as to cover installation costs for the new organ. The lists below are as per May 2014: please consult our website for the updated lists.

Pipe Sponsors



Janet and Arthur Askew (4), Michel Barde (2), William and Sheila Blair, Annabelle Dirks (2), Peter Doble, Jean-Jacques Elmiger, Terry and Christopher Jones, Bjorn Keller, William Kyle, Rebecca MacDonald, Sheila McKinnon, Jean Murray, David Nickels, Carla Oviatt-Warfield, Martin J. Pickles, the Pittendrigh family, Linda Revkin, Nicolas Sommer.



The Bunn family, Ray Harari (in memoriam), In loving memory of Suzanne Coat-Tober, Thierry Lévy, Jean Murray, Claire de Reynier, Maggie and Mounir Zaki.



Joseph Acar, Grace Ansah, Kathy Bijleveld (2), Irene Brampton, Jo Brown MBE, Pablo Cassina, Mawunu Chapman Nyaho (in memory of the ministries of the Rev. Patrick D. Campbell, Rev. Dr. William D. Cattanach, Rev. Raymond Gaston and Rev. James W. Macleod, and in appreciation of the service of their wives, Elspeth Campbell, Lorna Cattanach, Evelyn Gaston and Marjorie Macleod, and for Anie and Hashim Djojohadikusumo) (2), William Chapman Nyaho, Kwesi and Nana Kow Walker-Arthur (for Elizabeth Morris), Dorothy and Frederick Dalzell, Christopher Dirks (2), Robert Don, Graham Fox (in memory of Akiko Tanaka-Fox), Catherine Ganson, Lily Geissbühler (for Marie-Andrée Ciprut, Maja Fassbaender, Mariette Felix and Marthe Matile), Lily Geissbuhler (for Cristine Ferguson), Maurice and Daisy Gruaz, Daniel Harrison (in memory of the Very Rev. George Johnston Jeffrey), David B. Kyle, Thierry Lévy, Robbie MacDonald, Robert MacDonald, Sheila McKinnon (in honour of Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Hood), Peter Mandos, Judith Peacock and Wilbert Broeksmit (2), Jean Murray, Charles Revkin, Mary Rose Rudaz, Cédric Schnyder (2), Anne Tarnavski, Elayne Wehrin, Janet and David Wells, Elise Diana Wylie.



Concert Performers

Thank you to all concert performers, professional and amateur, and others, who have so generously given their time, effort and music to support the AOAC throughout the project:

Raphael Abeille, Constance Albertini, June Allender, Ruth Aoued-Lanz, David Asbury, Chloé Bapendier, Sophie Bellin, Noémie Bialobroda, Francis Biggi, Peter Billington, Alain Blumenstein, Axel Borel, Daniel Bouldjoua, Christine Brigger, Anne Briset, Joan Cambitsis, Todd Camburn, Anna Carlsen, Emanuel Christ, Sylvie Christ-Diserens, Andrew Close, Emilie Colliar, Jesse Concha, François Delor, Damien Desbenoit, Lionel Desmeules, Rhiannon Donkin, Victor Do Prado, Craig Downes, Steve Dunn, Isaline Dupraz, Pascal Etter, Amélia Feuer, Olivier Fleury, Samuel Gaille, Lucie Goodman, Avery Gosfield, Marie Hamard, Daniel Harrison, Saya Hashino, Lorenz Hasler, Sabine Hasler, William Heckel, May Hofman, Claude-Xavier Hollenstein, Nicola Hollyman, Floriane Hostettler, Claudio Ibarra, Peter Jeffes, Mikhail Juraviev, Thomas Kalcher, Céline Kayaleh, Sandie Koh, Eliane Lanovaz, Edouard Liechti, Vivien Liu, Weijing Liu, Rebecca MacDonald, Robbie MacDonald, Ann Maurer, Kristian Maylor, Christelle Monney, Kathryn Moreno Watson, Michael Mulvey, Eva Muñoz, Hugo Nespoulet, Louise Nussbaumer, Virginie Olsson, Miyako Okuni, Francisca Osorio Doren, Hiroko Ota, Judith Peacock, Marie-Claire Renisio, Linda Revkin, Zéphyrin Rey-Bellet, Bettina Ruchti, Ewa Rzetecka-Niewiadomska, Boris Schnaider, Agnès Schnyder, Natalia Solarek, Scott Stroman, Christophe Sturzenegger, Vincent Thévenaz, Philip Thomas, Aleksandra Timarov, José-Angel Toyo-Gilson, Alessandro Urbano, Tatiana Valleise, Henry Van, Claire Vesterman, Jean-Luc Waeber, Lionel Walter, Kathryn Wells, Jianning Zhu, and the groups Academicus Genève, L'Armonia degli Affetti, Centre de Musique Ancienne, Eclectic Voices, Ensemble Magistralis, Ensemble Primavera, Foundation Choir, GAOS Choral Group, Geneva Downtown Jazz Band, Musicians of the Auditoire de Calvin, Norwegian Choir of Geneva, "singingenève", Les Solistes du Conservatoire, Studio Choral, The Class of June Allender, The class of Peter Jeffes, and Volubilis.



AOAC Members

Thank you to the faithful members of the AOAC:

Jean-Marc Aellen, Terry Angleys, Grace Ansah, David Asbury, Arthur Askew, Janet Askew, Jean Auriel, Michel Barde, Alla Bean, Valérie Bersier, Francis Biggi, Kathy Bijleveld, Marie-Christine Bitar, Bill Blair, Sheila Blair, Pat Blake, Léopold Borel, Irene Brampton, Nan Braunschweiger, Wilbert Broeksmit, Jo Brown, Jean-Jacques Buard, Christine Bunn, Richard Bunn, Arthur de Saint Etienne, Philippe Dinkel (honorary), Annabelle Dirks, Jeff Donkin, Lorna Donkin, Rhiannon Donkin, Jean-Jacques Elmiger (honorary), Marguerite Elmiger, Olivier Fatio (honorary), Catherine Ganson, Lily Geissbuhler, Paulette Gay Genevay, Anne Gilbert, Arthur Griffith, Hazel Griffith, Floriane Hostettler, Makoto Ikeda, David Inman, Helen Inman, Alexa Intrator, Peter Jeffes, Elisabeth Jetter, Karin Kaminker, Gry Kristiansen, Ola Kristiansen, Patricia Laurie, Rebecca MacDonald, Robbie MacDonald, Robert MacDonald, Christof Machan, Ian Manson, Claudia Martin, Anne Mayo, Sheila McKinnon, Jean Murray, Suzanne Murray-Jones, Judith Peacock, Giuseppe Pedrazolli, Victor Pfyffer, Martin Pickles, James Pittendrigh, Sigrid Pittendrigh, Andrew Revkin, Charles Revkin, Christine Revkin, Linda Revkin, Susannah Revkin, Micheline Rindlisbacher, Mary Rose Rudaz, Janis Schlatter, Cédric Schnyder, Nicolas Sommer, Alice Tulloch, Peter Tulloch, Didier Van de Vyvere, Raymonde Wagner, Curt Walther, Elise Wylie, Maggie Zaki, and Mounir Zaki.



