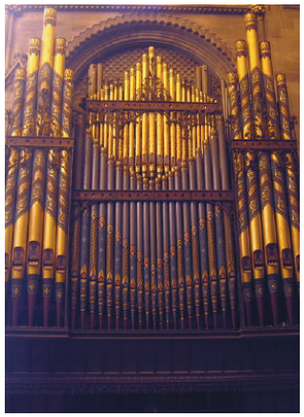
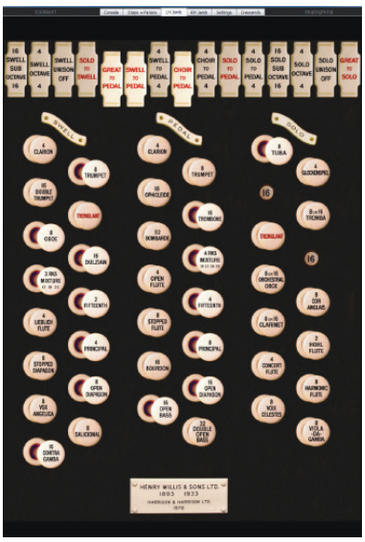
Hereford Cathedral

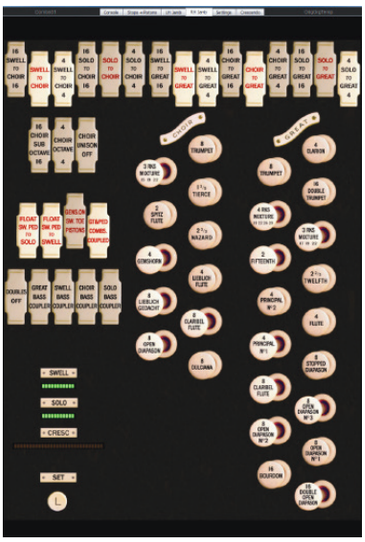
Hereford, England



This 67 stop 1892 Willis organ is housed in the 11th century cathedral located in the city of Hereford, England. It delivers rich, full reverberant tones that are characteristic of a great English cathedral organ.

The Great Organ is based on Father Willis's famous chorus work and is a bold division packed with a variety of stops including the Open Diapason No. 1, which is a true English "Big Open" and the unusual inclusion of two Willis 16' flutes. The Claribel Flute is the organ's big solo flute and is open all the way to bottom C. The Quint Mixture adds considerable brightness and is designed to sit on top of the No. 1 diapason and principal. The 16, 8, and 4 ft. reeds are vintage Willis and are an essential component of the tutti.





The Swell organ is exactly as built in 1892, save for the replacement of the Vox Humana with the 16' Dulzian. Since these division pipes are tucked away high above the south aisle of the cathedral, the sound is considerably quieter than the Great. The swell reeds are on heavy wind and therefore are the chief constituent of full Swell. The swell strings are mild and the Vox Angelica has a dreamy, ethereal feel.

The Choir organ speaks directly into the Quire and has the most direct and up front sounding ranks. The 8 and 4 ft. Lieblich Flutes are fine examples of a stop that Henry Willis excelled in.

The Solo organ is another enclosed division that is mounted fairly high up, with the Solo box shutters facing east, thus limiting its effect in the Nave. For this reason, during sampling, the microphones were moved to get a more direct sound. The Tromba, a mini-tuba, is on heavy wind and located within the box. In contrast, the Tuba itself is far bigger in sound and positioned over the Great. The French Cor Anglais is unusual in that it is a "free" reed and it's sound generation is similar to that of a harmonium.

The three pedal flues offer a good variety of weight, power, and tone in the Pedal Organ. The 32'/16' Open Wood and 32'/16' Bombarde/Ophicleide unit are the only unified rank on the pedal, while all other ranks are completely independent.

Great

Double Open Diapason	16
Bourdon	16
Open Diapason No. 1	8
Open Diapason No. 2	8
Open Diapason No. 3	8
Claribel Flute	8
Stopped Diapason	8
Principal No. 1	4
Principal No. 2	4
Flute	4
Twelfth	2 2/3
Fifteenth	2
Mixture	III
Mixture	IV
Double Trumpet	16
Trumpet	8
Clarion	4

Swell

Contra Gamba	16
Open Diapason	8
Stopped Diapason	8
Salicional	8
Vox Angelica	8
Principal	4
Lieblich Flute	4
Fifteenth	2
Mixture (17.19.22)	III
Dulzian	16
Oboe	8
Double Trumpet	16
Trumpet	8
Clarion	4

Choir

Open Diapason	8
Claribel Flute	8
Lieblich Gedacht	8
Dulciana	8
Gemshorn	4
Lieblich Flute	4
Nazard	2 2/3
Spitzflute	2
Tierce	1 3/5
Mixture (15.19.22)	III
Trumpet	8

Solo

Viola da Gamba	8
Voix Celestes	8
Harmonic Flute	8
Concert Flute	8
Hohl Flute	4
Orchestral Oboe	8
Clarinet	8
Cor Anglais	8
Tromba	8/16
Glockenspiel	4
Tuba	8

Pedal

Double Open Bass	32
Open Bass	16
Open Diapason	16
Bourdon	16
Principal	8
Stopped Flute	8
Fifteenth	4
Open Flute	4
Mixture	IV
Bombarde	32
Ophicleide	16
Trombone	16
Trumpet	8
Clarion	4