

Ripon Cathedral Organ

The first reference to an organ in Ripon Cathedral occurs in the Fabric Rolls for 1399. The present-day, four-manual organ contains two ranks from a 1690 organ.

Its history really begins, however, in 1878, when it was almost entirely built from scratch by T. C. Lewis of Brixton. Costing the grand sum of £4,000 without the case, this organ was undoubtedly one of the finest of its day. By 1912, however, it required extensive rebuilding: the stops were too loud and an appalling noise was issuing from the engines and bellows. The organ was therefore essentially rebuilt between 1912 and 1926, by Harrison & Harrison of Durham (completion of the work being significantly delayed by the outbreak of the First World War).

Since then, various additions and modifications have been made to the Ripon Cathedral organ: in 1963, 1972, 1988, 1996, 2000 and most recently, 2013. The 1996 additions included the horizontal Solo Orchestral Trumpet and a new eight-channel solid-state combination system.

In 2000 a new mobile console in the Nave was presented to the Cathedral by a generous benefactor. This console utilises the latest digital technology, and duplicates the console on the Screen but with many additional features. These include a MIDI interface, a Manual Exchange and Pedal Divide stops, separate sequencer and general pistons stepper.

The current organ case at Ripon was designed by Sir Gilbert Scott. One particularly unusual feature of it is a unique, carved wooden hand. This used to be used to conduct the choir, via a lever at the organ console. It was added to the case in 1695, when a rebuild of the organ then meant that the organist had to move to a new seat from where he could not conduct the choir himself.

In 2013 a complete overhaul of the organ took place. During the project the instrument was completely dismantled and cleaned, new blowing equipment installed for the pedal organ, and both consoles were modernised. The work was carried out by Harrison & Harrison of Durham.

Organ Specification

Great		Swell (Enclosed)	
Double Stopped Diapason	16	Bourdon	16
Large Open Diapason	8	Geigen	8
Small Open Diapason	8	Rohr Gedeckt	8
Stopped Diapason	8	Echo Gamba	8
Flûte Harmonique (2013)	8	Voix Célestes (Ten. C)	8
Octave	4	Geigen Principal	4
Coppel Flute	4	Rohr Flute	4
Twelfth	$2^2/3$	Flautina	2
Super Octave	2	Mixture 12.15	II
Mixture 19.22.26.29	IV	Sesquialtera 17.19.22	III
Contra Tromba	16	Oboe	8
Tromba	8	Contra Fagotto	16
Octave Tromba	4	Trumpet	8
		Clarion	4
<i>Swell to Great</i>		<i>Super Octave</i>	
<i>Choir to Great</i>		<i>Sub Octave</i>	
<i>Solo to Great</i>		<i>Unison Off</i>	
<i>Reeds on Choir</i>		<i>Tremulant</i>	

Choir

Lieblich Bourdon	16
Flauto Traverso	8
Salicional	8
Lieblich Gedeckt	8
Lieblich Flute	4
Salicet	4
Nazard	2 ² / ₃
Lieblich Piccolo	2
Tierce	1 ³ / ₅
Mixture 15.19.22	III
Clarinet	8

Swell to Choir
Solo to Choir

Pedal

Double Open Wood (ext.)	32
Open Wood	16
Violone	16
Sub Bass	16
Lieblich Bourdon (Choir)	16
Violoncello	8
Flute	8
Viole	4
Mixture 15.19.22	III
Bombardon	32
Ophicleide	16
Tuba (Solo)	16
Octave Tuba (Solo)	8
Tuba Clarion (Solo)	4

Great to Pedal
Swell to Pedal
Choir to Pedal
Solo to Pedal

Accessories

Balanced Expression Pedals for Swell and Solo

Eight adjustable Pistons each to Great, Swell, Choir, Solo and Pedal divisions
Eight adjustable General Pistons

Stepper Thumb and Toe Pistons

Solo (Enclosed)

Viole d'Orchestre	8
Concert Flute	4
Corno di Bassetto	16
Orchestral Hautboy	8
Contra Tuba	16
Orchestral Trumpet	8
(Unenclosed)	
Tuba (Unenclosed)	8

Super Octave

Sub Octave

Unison Off

Tremulant

Accessories (continued)

Reversible Thumb Pistons:

Great to Pedal

Swell to Pedal

Choir to Pedal

Solo to Pedal

Choir to Great

Solo to Great

Swell to Great

Reversible Toe Pistons:

Great to Pedal

Swell to Great

32ft Reed

Great and Pedal Combinations
Coupled

Screen Console:

Pedal to Swell Pistons

Generals on Swell Toe Pistons

Mobile Console:

Manuals I and II Exchange

Pedal Divide

Both consoles:

8 channels of Divisional Pistons

128 of General Pistons

Mobile Console:

Sequencer and controls for 'Forward', 'Reverse' and 'Reinstate'

Solid State Logic MIDI interface with MIDI in and out