

Brombaugh Organ timeline and selected quotes

Prepared summer 2010 by Brian Wentzel

DSB – David Boe

FLC – First Lutheran Church

JBB – John Brombaugh

RAB – Robert Boettger

WM – William Mock

Date	Event	Documentation
Nov. 30, 1924	Möller pipe organ installed	“First Hundred Years” history in FLC directory
1960	Möller organ’s condition begins to be a concern	70.06.21 Dedication Service program
August 23, 1962	DSB takes position of organist and choir director He was 26 years old	62.06.11 Church Council minutes
March 3, 1963	Christian Education Building dedicated \$180,000	“First Hundred Years” history in FLC directory
1963	JBB graduates from Cornell University (Ithaca, NY) with MS in Electrical Engineering thesis on the acoustic properties of organ pipe sounds	10.07.23 email from JBB
Feb. 10, 1964	“Mr. Boe would come before council at some future meeting to more fully explain a Worship and Music Committee 1964 goal to start an organ fund for about \$30,000 over a 10 year period.”	64.02.10 Church Council minutes
Feb. 1964	JBB starts 2 years’ apprenticeship with Fritz Noack	10.07.23 email from JBB
Sept. 14, 1964	“Mr. Parsons talked about the new organ in the new church building and some things to look for and plan to do.”	64.09.14 Church Council minutes
Oct. 12, 1964	DSB talks to council. Recommends buying a new organ for the new sanctuary. Recommends contracting with an organ builder to work directly with architect for new building.	64.10.12 Church Council minutes
June 14, 1965	“An organ fund was discussed.” “possibility of starting a memorial fund for the future purchase of an organ.”	65.06.14 Church Council minutes
Fall 1965	Mark Brombaugh begins sophomore year at Oberlin, studies with DSB because Garth Peacock on sabbatical	10.07.23 email from JBB
January 1966	JBB finishes his Op. 2 for Trinity Lutheran in Ithaca	2008 Ferguson dissertation
February 1966	JBB starts 1 ½ years’ apprenticeship with Charles Fisk Herman Greunke was also working for Fisk	2008 Ferguson dissertation
Mid 1966	DSB, Worship and Music Committee, Property Committee, pastors conclude “that to rebuild the present instrument would be economically unsound, and therefore recommended to the Council that they	70.06.21 Dedication Service program

	immediately begin exploration which would lead to the purchase of a new pipe organ.”	
November 1966	Brombaugh Op. 2, Trinity Lutheran, Ithaca, NY dedicated DSB plays dedication recital	2000 CrossAccent article 10.07.23 email from JBB
Jan. 6, 1967	DSB sends Christmas card to JBB, says FLC is thinking to get a new organ, asks if he would be interested in doing it JBB writes back in the affirmative, they write “lots of letters”	10.07.23 email from JBB
Jan. 9, 1967	“Pastor Boettger outlined Mr. Boe’s thinking about our current organ and what conditions could be a few years from now when he might have need of another organ.”	67.01.09 Church Council minutes
Jan. 29, 1967	DSB elected to Church Council	67.01.29 Congregational Meeting minutes
Feb. 13, 1967	At RAB’s request, a Decision Committee is formed “The function of this committee will be to discuss the options available to the congregation after the debt is eliminated at the end of 1967” DSB on this committee	67.02.13 Church Council minutes
March 1, 1967	RAB reports on first Decision Committee meeting in the Lectern	67.03.01 Lectern
March 13, 1967	Decision Committee options: new sanctuary; rehabilitation of current structure; major renovation; pay back benevolence; programs; nothing; combination	67.03.13 Church Council minutes
March 15, 1967	RAB writes about Decision Committee in the Lectern; including: “Our worship and music program has reached a limit due to the arrangement of the building, and the age and capability of the pipe organ.”	67.03.15 Lectern
April 3, 1967	Worship and Music Committee meets; explores “the feasibility of certain changes in the acoustics and choir and organ placement in the present sanctuary”	67.04.03 Worship and Music Committee minutes
April 10, 1967	DSB and Worship Committee recommend that a new organ be an option for the Decision Committee	67.04.10 Church Council minutes
April 17, 1967	Decision Committee meets a second time “It was felt that any initial proposal should include as a minimum: Placing the music in the rear of the church; A new organ; A new roof; Payment of back and current benevolences.”	67.04.19 Lectern
June 5, 1967	Decision Committee meets, makes proposals [See 09.21.67 “Your Decision Committee Recommends” pamphlet for proposals]	67.06.11 Church Council minutes
June 12, 1967	1963 addition is paid off Council approves Decision Committee’s recommendations, including purchasing a new (Brombaugh) organ now DSB hopes to meet with JBB on June 23 for discussion; hopes the Worship Committee can meet with JBB during	67.09.21 “Your Decision Committee Recommends” pamphlet 67.06.11 Church Council minutes

	June [Council minutes read "June 11"]	
summer 1967	JBB visits DSB, visits FLC and "various people who were forming an organ committee." JBB begins making proposal drawings based on discussion with DSB JBB visits DSB and committee again and delivers plans and a contract	10.07.23 email from JBB
Aug. 27, 1967	Church Council approved hiring outside fundraiser to help meet goals of the Decision Committee	67.08.27 Special Church Council meeting minutes
Sept. 11, 1967	Contract has been sent by JBB, needs some tightening up	67.09.11 Church Council minutes
Mid-Sept. 1967	JBB starts working for Beckerath in Hamburg Meets George Taylor, who was also working for Beckerath	2008 Ferguson dissertation
Sept. 21, 1967	Decision Committee pamphlet published "recommendation ... that we should now replace our present pipe organ with a new instrument." Drawing of proposed new organ; picture of damaged Möller pipes; picture of current sanctuary with organ outline drawn in \$52,000 for organ; \$10,000 for building modifications Plan for a new sanctuary at some unspecified future time Written by Richard Horn and DSB	67.09.21 "Your Decision Committee Recommends" pamphlet 67.09.11 Church Council minutes
Sept. 24, 1967	Council presents Decision Committee recommendations to the congregation at a congregational meeting. Congregation unanimously accepts the recommendations. [program reads "April 24"]	70.06.21 Dedication Service program 67.09.24 Special Congregational Meeting minutes 67.09.27 Lectern
Nov. 13, 1967	Contract signed by FLC (including by Alan Parsons) To be installed within 2 years \$52,000 in 9 installments + transportation and lodging [approximately \$338,000 in 2010 dollars; replacement cost is now approximately \$850,000, better than the stock market!]	67.11.13 contract
Nov. 13, 1967	Organ fund balance: \$1,715 \$1,000 to be used for down payment; the rest transferred to the new "Improvement Fund"	67.11.13 Church Council minutes
Nov. 28, 1967	Payment of \$1,000 (contract #1 portion) JBB in Hamburg	67.11.28 letter from RAB to JBB
Dec. 2, 1967	JBB mails signed contract to RAB Still in Europe studying	67.12.02 letter from JBB to RAB
Jan. 5, 1968	Jacq. Stinkens pipemakers in Holland send JBB quotes for making the pipes Great mixture has been split into 2 mixtures	68.01.05 letter from Stinkens to JBB, attached to 69.11.24

	Quote for Rauschpfeife (3R), Quintadena 4, Quint 2 2/3, and Octave 2 on pedal Quote for hammering Great 4' (Great 2' was actually hammered)	letter from JBB to FLC
February 1968	Thelma Melin Schumann of Cleveland shows up at FLC and tells RAB that she would like to memorialize her parents (who had been members of FLC many years ago). hears of the project. RAB tells her about the organ. She writes to the Council "indicating her desire to underwrite a substantial portion of the cost of the proposed instrument." She gives \$30,000	70.06.21 Dedication Service program 68.03.11 Church council minutes 68.02.21 Lectern 1968 Newspaper article
March 19, 1968	RAB resigns, effective June 30	68.03.19 letter from RAB to Church Council
April 1968	JBB meets Harald Vogel, who takes him to visit many historic organs in Germany and the Netherlands	2008 Ferguson dissertation
April 1968	JBB returns from studies in Europe	68.04.24 Lectern
May 27, 1968	JBB ready to order pipes from pipemaker Bill for \$6,700 (contract #1a, 2)	68.05.27 letter from JBB to RAB
June 1968	JBB orders pipes from Stinkens	69.09.27 invoice from Stinkens to JBB, stapled to 69.11.24 letter from JBB to FLC
June 12, 1968	Payment of \$6,700	Receipt stapled to 68.05.27 letter from JBB to RAB
July-Dec. 1968	DSB in Europe, studying with Gustav Leonhardt 2 Oberlin students fill in during the fall Marianne Snyder (future Penton) accompanies children's and youth choirs	68.04.08 Church Council minutes http://www.albany.edu/piporg-l/bios/boe.d-bio 68.06.26 Lectern
Mid-August 1968	JBB's shop is set up, work on the organ is started	68.10.27 letter from JBB to WM
Aug. 23, 1968	JBB "reported the first piece of wood going through the planer"	2008 Ferguson dissertation
Oct. 27, 1968	JBB mails progress report to WM invoice for \$5,000 (contract #5 portion) JBB in continuous correspondence with DSB	68.10.27 letter from JBB to WM 68.10.27 invoice
Oct. 30, 1968	Payment of \$7,300 (sic) (contract #5)	68.10.30 letter stapled to 68.10.27 invoice
Jan. 11, 1969	Invoice for \$3,000 (contract #6 portion)	69.01.11 invoice
Jan. 11, 1969	Payment of \$3,000	"organ payments" booklet
Feb. 8, 1969	Invoice for \$3,000 (contract # 6 remainder) Dock strike on east coast is delaying the delivery of some parts and items Prices are going up	69.02.08 letter from JBB to WM

	JBB optimistic about finishing on schedule	
Feb. 10, 1969	Payment of \$3,000	Receipt stapled to 69.02.08 letter from JBB to WM
February 1969	Fred Glime, Contractor, (and member of FLC) begins work on back of sanctuary to ready it for the organ	69.02.12 Lectern 69.02.26 Lectern
March 11, 1969	Invoice for \$2,500 (contract #4 portion) Shipments held up due to the dock strike have been released, now going through customs JBB planning to visit FLC the following Sunday	69.03.11 letter from JBB to WM
March 16, 1969	JBB visits FLC Work is "proceeding ahead of schedule" Shows pictures of work in progress	69.03.19 Lectern
March 17, 1969	Payment of \$8,500 (contract # 4 complete; misunderstanding?)	Receipt stapled to 69.03.11 letter from JBB to WM
May 17, 1969	"Several members of this committee and the choirs journeyed to Germantown to visit Mr. Brombaugh's shop and inspect progress on the new organ."	1969 Annual Report – Worship and Music Committee 69.05.07 Lectern
June 24, 1969	Sinkens bills JBB for \$4,836 (interior pipes)	69.06.24 invoice from Stinkens to JBB, stapled to 69.11.24 letter from JBB to FLC
July 1969	Charles Springer starts as pastor	69.07.21 Church Council minutes
July 7, 1969	Invoice for \$8,000 (contract #3) Or, for \$6,000 (contract #3 portion)	69.07.07 invoice
July 14, 1969	Payment of \$6,000	Receipt stapled to 69.07.07 invoice
July 16, 1969	Invoice for \$4,987.83 from Glime Contractors Including plastering, masonry, floors, welding, and electric	69.07.16 invoice
July 21, 1969	DSB hopes to dedicate the organ in the fall	69.07.21 Church Council minutes
Aug. 7, 1969	Payment of \$4,987.83 to Glime Contractors	Receipt stapled to 69.07.16 invoice
Sept. 15, 1969	Invoice for \$3,000 (contract #7 portion)	69.09.15 invoice
Sept. 22, 1969	Payment of \$3,000	Receipt stapled to 69.09.15 invoice
Sept. 27, 1969	Stinkens bills JBB for \$4,665 (façade pipes)	69.09.27 invoice from Stinkens to JBB, stapled to 69.11.24 letter from JBB to FLC
Oct. 2, 1969	Lectern: "work is nearing completion"; hopefully it will be done by Christmas; workers will need a place to stay	69.10.02 Lectern
Oct. 3, 1969	Invoice for \$197 from Kuhn's Ornamental Railings	69.10.03 invoice

Oct. 6, 1969	Invoice for \$2,000 (contract #3 remainder) a bit behind schedule, but JBB expecting to ship before Christmas	69.10.06 invoice
Oct. 17, 1969	Payment of \$2,000	Receipt stapled to 69.10.06 invoice
Oct. 27, 1969	Invoice for \$5,000 (contract #5 portion)	69.10.27 invoice
Oct. 30, 1969	Payment of \$7,300 (contract #5 total)	Letter stapled to 69.10.27 invoice
Oct. 30, 1969	Payment of \$197 to Kuhn's Ornamental Railings	Receipt stapled to 69.10.03 invoice
Nov. 24, 1969	Invoice for \$4,837 (\$837 for inflation on pipe cost; \$4,000 for contract #8 portion) Price list for pipes, including invoices from Jacq. Stinkens pipemakers in Holland with pipe details Great mixture has been split into 2 mixtures Quote for Rauschpfeife (3R), Quintadena 4, Quint 2 2/3, and Octave 2 on pedal	69.11.24 letter from JBB to FLC
Dec. 8, 1969	Payment of \$3,900 (sic)	Receipt stapled to 69.11.24 letter from JBB to FLC
End 1969	"We had hoped to see the instrument in the sanctuary by the end of the year, but several small delays prevented this. Mr. Brombaugh now estimates that he can ship the instrument to Lorain around the first of February."	1969 Annual Report – Worship and Music Committee
January 1970	George Taylor joins JBB's shop	2008 Ferguson dissertation
Jan. 12, 1970	Payment of \$837	Receipt stapled to 69.11.24 letter from JBB to FLC
Feb. 14, 1970	Dedication planned for May 17, Pentecost Sunday	70.02.14 Worship and Music Committee minutes
March 5, 1970	JBB "expecting to be able to ship in March."	70.03.05 Lectern
March 11, 1970	Invoice for \$1,500 (contract #7 remainder)	70.03.11 invoice
March 12, 1970	Payment of \$1,600 (for above plus \$100 not paid on Dec. 8)	Receipt stapled to 70.03.11 invoice
?	Pastor Charles Springer writes letter to JBB, asking him to release the organ.	10.09.04 conversation with Jackie Parsons 10.08.18 interview with DSB
April 17, 1970	Organ shipped to FLC by Miles Moving & Storage Company 8140 pounds	70.04.17 invoice
April 22, 1970	Invoice for \$800 (contract #8 remainder)	70.04.22 invoice
April 22, 1970	Payment of \$800	Receipt stapled to 70.04.22 invoice
April 30, 1970	Lectern: organ "is now under construction in the rear of	70.04.30 Lectern

	the nave” JBB and crew stayed with Mastens and Weavers while installing the organ Dedication will be on June 21	09.05.14 note 70.10.29 Lectern
	JBB also stayed with Coopers	10.09.04 conversation with Jane Cooper
May 6, 1970	Payment of \$707.47 to Miles Moving & Storage Company	Receipt stapled to 70.04.17 invoice
May 11, 1970	Invoice for \$1,118.18 from Lorain Steel Fabricators “Install structural steel and columns to support weight of new organ.”	70.05.11 invoice
May 12, 1970	Invoice for \$278.82 from Ryan Electric Co. “Run Circuit for Organ and install dimmer switch.”	70.05.12 invoice
May 14, 1970	Invoice for \$390 from Luxury Heating Company “Change 2 trunk lines”	70.05.14 invoice
May 16, 1970	Invoice for \$2,411 (to cover inflation)	70.05.16 invoice
May 25, 1970	Payment of \$2,411	Receipt stapled to 70.05.16 invoice
May 25, 1970	Payment of \$1,118.18 to Lorain Steel Fabricators.	Receipt stapled to 70.05.11 invoice
May 25, 1970	Payment of \$278.82 to Ryan Electric Co.	Receipt stapled to 70.05.12 invoice
May 25, 1970	Payment of \$390 to Luxury Heating Company	Receipt stapled to 70.05.14 invoice
May 29, 1970	Invoice for \$25.25 from Wellman Products Company For bronze plaque on back of organ	70.05.29 invoice
May 30, 1970	“The Journal” runs a full page story on the organ With photo of JBB in front of the organ	70.05.30 Journal article
June 18, 1970	Payment of \$25.25 to Wellman Products Company	Receipt stapled to 70.05.29 invoice
June 19, 1970	Programs for dedication service and recital delivered by Lorain Printing Company, at a cost of \$320	70.06.30 statement
June 21, 1970	Dedication service and recital at 4:00 p.m.; admission by (free) ticket Duplicate recital at 8:00 p.m. First time organ played publicly “one of the most joyous days in the history of First Lutheran Church.” Great mostly voiced (except Scharff and Trumpet); Pedal flues voiced; Positive 8’ and 4’ praestant voiced	70.06.21 Dedication Service program 70.05.28 Lectern 70.06.25 Lectern 10.08.18 interview with DSB
July 16, 1970	Payment of \$320 to Lorain Printing Company	Receipt stapled to 70.06.30 statement
Sept. 2, 1970	Möller organ sold to Mr. Robert Carlyon, Jr. for \$100 and removal	70.09.02 Agreement
Oct. 12, 1970	2 nd dedication recital played by William Porter (Yale graduate student, studied harpsichord with DSB at Oberlin during undergraduate)	1970 Annual Report – Worship and Music Committee

	Monday, 8:00 p.m. "Just hours before the second organ recital in the dedicatory series, Mr. John Brombaugh declared our Brombaugh Organ to be completed."	70.10.01 Lectern 70.10.15 Lectern
Oct. 20, 1970	Invoice for \$5,200 (contract #9)	70.10.20 invoice
Oct. 28, 1970	Payment of \$5,200 Bill to JBB for \$13.12 for long distance calls	70.10.28 letter from ? to JBB; receipt stapled to 70.10.20 invoice
Late Oct., 1970	JBB writes thank you to the congregation	70.10.29 Lectern
Nov. 23, 1970	Payment of \$12.76 to Nancy Webb for dedication tea	70.11.23 receipt
Feb. 21, 1971	3 rd dedication event – "Bach Organ Mass" with choir and organ Clavierübung, part III Originally planned for Nov. 15, 1970	1970 Annual Report – Worship and Music Committee 1971 Annual Report – Choirs 70.10.01 Lectern 71.01.28 Lectern
1972?	Complete tuning of the organ by George Taylor and Bruce Shull; invoice for \$480 Warranty work done: "rebuilding of about 80 pipes to correct a construction error by the Dutch pipe builder" "strengthening of the languids in the large pipes" "tonal improvements in the reed stops"	Undated note in organ file
Dec. 15, 2002	Zimbelstern added by Hal Gober, Elora, Ontario Donated by Marianne Penton in memory of her mother, Emma (Haefka) Snyder	03.01.01 Lectern
March 28, 2011	Historic Organ Citation #403 granted by the Organ Historical Society	11.03.28 letter from OHS

Quotes

"Our present organ, more than 40 years old, has served its full, useful life. From here on, unless it is replaced, it will be a continuing source of expense and annoyance just to keep it functioning." – 67.09.21 "Your Decision Committee Recommends" pamphlet

"Since a new organ will be installed when a new sanctuary is built, it would appear to be poor judgment to repair and maintain an old instrument when a new one must be purchased eventually in any event." – 67.09.21 "Your Decision Committee Recommends" pamphlet

"We add a musical resource to the religious community. The organ which is to be installed will be one of the finest instruments in this part of the state and by far the finest church organ in the County." – 67.09.21 "Your Decision Committee Recommends" pamphlet

“In fact, your Council believes that to delay the purchase and installation of this instrument will be impractical and expensive and will represent a lack of Christian courage which should be ours.” – 67.09.21 “Your Decision Committee Recommends” pamphlet

“I want to reciprocate by providing your church with an organ that will serve the congregation in its worship over the coming years as well as possible” – 67.12.02 letter from JBB to RAB

“It means a lot to an organbuilder to have someone understanding and interested as yourself leading a customer-congregation” – 68.05.27 letter from JBB to RAB

“Considered to be one of the finest of its kind in the United States” – 70.05.30 Journal article

“The organ keyboard contains individually carved keys made from rough ivory blocks imported from Germany.” – 70.05.30 Journal article

“ ‘an exquisitely voiced organ – that’s controllable – is one of the most beautiful instruments in the world.’ ” (Brombaugh) – 70.05.30 Journal article

“The builders have spared no effort within the above context to make a fine instrument that is musically responsive, beautiful to see and to hear, and long lasting. It is solidly based on the best organbuilding traditions of the last five or more centuries and has such important elements of this tradition as slider windchests with mechanical keyaction, pipes of wood, copper, and heavy tin-lead alloys – some of which have been hammered and are probably the first example of this ancient usage in our country, an acoustically functional casework which is largely made of solid wood, and a musically alive wind-system. To contribute to the architectural balance, the design of the case and the embossed pipes is based on geometrical proportion methods worked out for the great creations of the Gothic Period.” – 70.06.21 Dedication Service program

“2062 pipes” – 70.06.21 Dedication Service program

“Voiced and tonally finished by George Taylor and John Brombaugh.” – 70.06.21 Dedication Service program

“The builders’ plaque on the rear of the main casework state: In a world filled with man-made strife, hatred, and ugliness, all of us connected with the making of this instrument hope that it will edify those who see and hear it and point their hearts and minds once again back to the Source of our salvation and all Goodness and Beauty. And in any event All Glory be to God Alone!” – 70.06.21 Dedication Service program

“In his brief remarks Pastor Springer reminded the congregation that the organ is part of a total program planned by the Decisions Committee in 1967. This program includes increased benevolence giving as well as other capital expenses besides the organ. The organ should be seen in this light – part of a total

program that includes concern for others as well as care for the spiritual experiences of our members.”
– 70.06.25 Lectern

“The organ sounds real good now. We miss you fellows but not the weird noises you made. All is peaceful and quiet.” – 70.10.28 letter from ? to JBB

No mention of non-equal temperament in Dedication Service program, or in any other contemporary documents

“Other items on the Lorain organ were experimental; some of these experiments are still being used in Brombaugh’s instruments. Examples include hammered pipes, an unusual 4’ flute on the *Positiv*, high lead content in the pipes, unequal temperament, and flexible winding.” 1984 dissertation by Marga Morris Kienzle, University of Cincinnati, p. 19

“During the period that Brombaugh spent in Europe, he had learned the technique of hammering pipes. He was impressed with the sound of the older hammered pipes and decided to adopt the technique, terming this special sound “vocale.” Hammering the pipes of the instrument, accompanied by the use of a high mouth cut-up, a high lead content in the pipe alloy, and other complementary ideas in the voicing, wind supply, and temperaments, helps to produce this “vocale” sound. Brombaugh describes this ideal sound as pure, cohesive, singing, and unforced.” 1984 Morris Kienzle dissertation, p. 19

“The pipes in the Lorain organ, and in all of Brombaugh’s instruments that followed, have a high cut-up on the mouth of each pipe, which he believes helps to achieve a warm and full sound.” 1984 Morris Kienzle dissertation, p. 19-20

“The composition of the pipe metal shows a high lead content, but not so high as in his later alloys. The Lorain organ has pipes consisting of about 83 percent lead and about 17 percent tin ... Contrary to later instruments, the front pipes in Lorain contain a high percentage of tin. This is one of the few examples of this alloy in the front pipes of a Brombaugh instrument.” 1984 Morris Kienzle dissertation, p. 20

“At the time of its design and installation, this instrument represented a significant departure from the mechanical action organs, most of them from European makers, which were being built and imported in the late sixties and early seventies.” – 2000 CrossAccent article

“As his respect for the old masters grew, so did his resolve to understand the intricacies of their techniques, a quest not unlike the effort of violinmakers to replicate the art of a Stradivarius or Guarneri.” – 2000 CrossAccent article

“The vote of the congregation in Lorain to enter into a contract for a new organ was taken without any funds in hand or pledged. A few weeks following the vote, a woman from Cleveland, Thelma Melin Schumann, who had no prior connection with the congregation, arrived unannounced and introduce herself to the Pastor, Robert Boettger. She indicated an interest in providing a memorial to her parents,

who had been members of the congregation many years earlier. When shown John Brombaugh's drawing of the proposed organ, she immediately pledged a gift covering 60 percent of the contract price." – 2000 CrossAccent article

"His methods of construction revolutionized American organ building in the twentieth century ... Brombaugh organs have been influential to both organ builders and organists, defining many aspects of the historically informed American organ in the late twentieth century. Surprisingly, the salient characteristics of Brombaugh's organs were developed over a few short years and are demonstrated in his early instruments at Lorain and Ashland Avenue ... Despite the relatively small number of instruments by Brombaugh, his impact on the field has been enormous." – 2008 dissertation by Homer Ferguson III, Arizona State University, p. iii

"Not only did the price John offer prove appealing to the Lutherans in Ohio, but so did the planned location of his shop within the state. All of the parties involved were taking a risk. John had never built an instrument of this size before, nor had he ever run a shop of his own. David Boe took a risk by recommending John Brombaugh as the organ builder. The First Lutheran Church in Lorain took a risk on a local organ builder." – 2008 Ferguson dissertation, p. 37

"John made the windchests of poplar and based the pedalboard on American Guild of Organists standards, with the exception of its thirty-note compass. [John would later depart from making concave and radiating pedalboards in the mid 1970s.]" – 2008 Ferguson dissertation, p. 39

"The other benefit of Brombaugh designing the combination system was that he needed to document his practical application of his electrical engineering degree for his state board certification, having passed the exams some ten years earlier" – 2008 Ferguson dissertation, p. 39

"While the famous term 'vocale,' which became a hallmark of Brombaugh's work, was first posited to Brombaugh by Harald Vogel, John became aware of the concept on his own during this voicing in Lorain ... Brombaugh's inspiration for careful attention to the 8' Praestant in his voicing work began in Lorain. It was this focus in the early years of his career which would define much of his voicing style." – 2008 Ferguson dissertation, p. 40

"Much of Brombaugh's early development is exemplified in the Lorain instrument, but the most radical aspect of the instrument was the temperament. David Boe and John Brombaugh mutually agreed that the organ should be placed in Werkmeister tuning. When David Boe went to Europe for a ½ year sabbatical to study with Gustav Leonhardt, John suggested he go to Medemblik, The Netherlands, where Flentrop had restored an organ and put it into Werkmeister tuning. John was enthusiastic about how musical the sound was and so encouraged David Boe that he went there and was also impressed with the qualities of the sound. John taught himself how to set the Werckmeister temperament by ear and David Boe and John decided to give it a try on a large scale. Brombaugh and Boe had temporarily set a practice instrument at Oberlin into this temperament as an initial trial. The use of an unequal temperament was never revealed to the congregation. Brombaugh and Boe felt it best not to alarm the

congregation by announcing the proposed use of Werkmeister III as there were no examples for them to hear.” – 2008 Ferguson dissertation

“Flentrop of course had experience with historic temperaments having used them on restorations; however, John Brombaugh was the first modern builder to use such a temperament in a new organ. [JB, Eugene, Oregon, interview with author, January 30, 2008]” – 2008 Ferguson dissertation

“The tuning at Lorain would have long-lasting implications ... It was incredibly influential on [Fisk’s] work since, soon after [his visit to Lorain in 1971] Fisk went back to Boston and retuned the Harvard Fisk into Werkmeister III. Following that he never wanted to use equal temperament again.” – 2008 Ferguson dissertation

“For Brombaugh, the advantage of wedge bellows was that they could easily be adjusted by slight movements of the weight, thus easily changing the wind pressure.” – 2008 Ferguson dissertation

“Without the incredible support from David [Boe] and the First Lutheran congregation, I would just have been another grain of sand in the entire world of music or whatever else I might have worked at.” – JBB, 10.07.19 email

“No one has played such an important part in my own development (other than my trusting wife!) as David. He has a very unusual sense for what is important to make wonderful music, and FLC was really lucky to have such a treasure serve them so long.” – JBB, 10.07.19 email

“People pay attention to time and money while a project is in the works, but centuries later, those things get forgotten, but the essential qualities are not forgotten if they are done well.” – JBB, 10.07.23 email

“Heaven knows that the Lorain instrument (and the subsequent installation at Ashland Avenue in Toledo) broke new ground for the American organ scene.” – Michael Barone, 10.07.26 email

“The one thing that I've always admired about John and his instruments is that the quality of the building was always extremely high, but still they kept getting better. Lorain set a standard for so many churches and I love the sound of the principals, which I think matured in John as he was building that organ.” – Elizabeth Harrison, 10.08.12 email

“My memory of Opus 4 was "wow"...here was an instrument that followed certain historic principals (the hammered lead flute, the flexible wind, the Schnitger-esque case, the temperament...but with a detached, offset console and electric stop controls.

The sound was vivid, alive, colorful, exciting. The action was amazingly fluid, communicative and light. Anyone who heard or played that organ understood that something important was happening at 1st Lutheran. Then came the organ for Ashland Avenue Baptist....!” – Michael Barone, 10.08.25 email