

# St James' Anglican Church, Porto

## Fundraising appeal for a new organ

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### **Introduction**

The organ at St James is an elderly digital organ which has served us well over the years but now needs replacing. Although a quality instrument of its time, some of the components in the console (keyboards) are failing or working only intermittently. Repairs will no doubt become increasingly costly and this makes little sense given that the sound of the organ itself is outmoded, restricted and unsatisfactory. The technology of electronic (simulated) church organs has recently made considerable advances (see below for a detailed description) which means that, for a relatively small investment, the entire organ could be replaced and upgraded with a dramatic improvement in sound and effect.

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To be without a functioning church organ would greatly diminish the quality of worship at St. James. Although a digital piano is fortunately available, this is not a viable alternative for the future. We need an adequate organ to support the hymns and other congregational singing, and to provide appropriate musical accompaniment for the many different services of the church. At present, St James is fortunate to have two professional organists who are committed to developing the role of music as a spiritual commentary on the texts and themes of worship, also to widening the community of the church through musical activities and events. With a simple but professional quality instrument we have the potential not only to substantially enrich the musical experience during worship but to lay the foundations for future cultural development during the years to come.

## **A new digital organ**

Within the last two decades the technology of electric organs has advanced considerably. Formerly, electric instruments came with a set of electronic sounds which were an approximation of real pipe organs. Sonically these organs were unsatisfactory particularly in their copies of solo reed stops and mixtures (the existing and brilliant sounds of the organ). With the [Hauptwerk](#) software this approach changed as technicians began to record real instruments - famous and iconic historic instruments throughout Europe - carefully reproducing exact copies of these instruments. This means that the console itself is a 'white paper', a simple Midi keyboard(s) on which different virtual organs are loaded through a computer using the Hauptwerk software. The most ingenious part of this arrangement is a touch screen on which the different registrations of the various instruments can be visualised and controlled.



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## Equipment & quotes

Using the existing sound system (for the present) we would need only the following components.

1. A new digital console of at least two keyboards with midi (musical instrument digital interface) capability.
2. A computer powerful enough to drive the Hauptwerk software.
3. The Hauptwerk software itself which is 695€
4. A touch screen for displaying the different registration combinations of the digital organs.

**Noorlander Orgels.** For a high quality two-manual console - the 'Fugara' - 14.500€ (not including vat and transport from the Netherlands). Contact info. Lennert Knops, +31 (0)342-200203. [lennert@noorlanderorgels.com](mailto:lennert@noorlanderorgels.com). [www.noorlanderorgels.com](http://www.noorlanderorgels.com)

### Mixtuur

### Hoffrichter

**Contentorgans.** Contentorgans.com, based in the Netherlands. 0031 341554876 [Cambiare 223](#) seems an ideal solution.