



**MADISON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA • JOHN DEMAIN, MUSIC DIRECTOR**  
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## **The Overture Concert Organ The Gift of Pleasant T. Rowland**

- ◆ Commissioned and owned by the Madison Symphony Orchestra (MSO), the Overture Concert Organ is one of the most significant new installations in America. This one-of-a-kind instrument will be the striking backdrop for all MSO performances in its new home, Overture Hall.
- ◆ All organ parts were handcrafted in the Orgelbau Klais workshop, a fourth-generation family-owned enterprise in Bonn, Germany.
- ◆ Organ is installed in a moveable chamber, both of which travel into position for MSO performances on 16 steel wheels and four steel rails, powered by a push chain drive. No other organ in the world moves in this fashion.
- ◆ Weight of organ: approx. 30 tons. Weight of moveable organ chamber: approx. 120 tons. Together with its chamber, the organ is believed to be the heaviest moveable object in any theater in the world.
- ◆ Organ travels at approx. 1 foot per minute; it takes approx. 30 minutes for the organ to move into place.
- ◆ 63 stops; 72 ranks; 4,040 pipes (3,779 metal and 261 wooden).
- ◆ Length of tallest pipe: 437 inches (36 feet, 5 inches).
- ◆ Weight of biggest pipe: Approx. 1,212 lbs.
- ◆ Three manuals (keyboards), each one with 61 keys. Pedal board has 32 notes.
- ◆ The chamber is constructed with honeycomb wall surfaces specially designed for their acoustical properties. The organ and chamber are fully integrated into the acoustical and architectural environment of Overture Hall.
- ◆ Moveable organ chamber size: 70 feet x 16 feet x 48 feet high, providing a 54 feet x 14 feet x 24 feet high chamber for the organ.
- ◆ Materials used include mixture of woods (fir, oak, beech, and cedar), metals (tin and lead alloy, brass and steel), in addition to bone and ebony.
- ◆ Organ designed and built in two years and nine months.
- ◆ The project is funded through an unprecedented \$2.95 million in private gifts to the MSO: \$1.1 million from the Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation; \$1 million from Diane Endres Ballweg to support programming and education; \$500,000 from an anonymous donor to endow the Wayne Curtis & Maybelle Slavens Hall and Francis Vincent & Lettie von Kalweit Dunnebacke Organ Curator position; and two additional anonymous gifts of \$250,000 and \$100,000.