

ENGLISH

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture, the project involves the creation of a new instrument inside the restored historic organ case.

In summary, the project aims to create a grand European organ of the 21st century, based on the French symphonic style complemented with other European schools and open to contemporary music. It will feature an original and harmonious aesthetic synthesis that takes into account the building's unique acoustic characteristics.

Why does the organ need to be rebuilt?

The organ requires significant work. Built in the 1970s under less-than-ideal conditions, it has never fully met expectations. It suffers from serious deficiencies in both technical and musical design, and sometimes mediocre materials were used in its construction.

Restoring the current instrument would be too costly given the uncertain musical outcome. Therefore, a unanimous decision has been made to reconstruct the instrumental section.

The Project in broad terms:

- **Learning from History:** Conducting an in-depth analysis of our rich history to avoid repeating past mistakes.
- **Exceptional Craftsmanship:** Creating a musical instrument crafted to the highest quality standards.
- **Acoustic context:** Selecting sound aesthetics specifically chosen to suit the venue's unique acoustics.
- **Heritage Consideration:** Taking into account the organ heritage within the metropolis.
- **Versatile Design:** Designing an organ adaptable for liturgical use as well as for solo and ensemble concerts.
- **Innovative Synthesis:** Developing a 21st-century European organ featuring an original synthesis of sound.

This ambitious endeavor currently stands as the most significant organ project in France over the past four decades.

A tool in service of an ambitious cultural project:

The cultural project led by the Association Cathedra is organized around four main pillars:

- **Cultural Dissemination:** Showcasing the rich musical heritage of the organ through solo recitals and concerts with instrumental and vocal ensembles, as part of a season featuring around thirty events per year. This also includes streaming and recording initiatives.

- **Promotion of Emerging Artists and Creation:** Supporting the artists of tomorrow and fostering new creative works.
- **Education:** Establishing partnerships with the conservatory, hosting residencies, conferences, and academies, among other educational activities.
- **Mediation:** Making culture accessible to the widest possible audience through visits, ensuring accessibility for all—including people with reduced mobility (PRM), engaging young audiences, and inspiring new vocations.

Project Stakeholders:

- **Association Cathedra:**
 - A non-profit organization recognized for its public interest mission. It leads fundraising efforts and seeks sponsorships in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture.
- **Ministry of Culture:**
 - **General Direction of Artistic Creation** (control project's artistic direction).
 - **Regional Directorate of Cultural Affairs of Nouvelle-Aquitaine** (project manager).

Timeline:

- **2024:** Call for tenders (currently underway).
- **2025 – 2028:** Interior restoration of the cathedral and construction of the organ.
- **2029:** Installation and inauguration of the organ.