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# Christ Cathedral organ getting dismantled for Italy trip

GARDEN GROVE – How do you repair one of the largest musical instruments in the world?

With some careful planning, a lot of work and a ticket to Italy.

The Hazel Wright Organ, considered among the largest and most recognizable pipe organs in the world, is being dismantled in Christ Cathedral for a \$2 million restoration project expected to stretch 18 months.

Named after a donor, the massive instrument will be shipped in large storage containers to the workshop of Fratelli Ruffatti in Padova, Italy, where it was originally built.

The organ was considered the centerpiece of the famed cathedral, where viewers from across the globe tuned in each week for the “Hour of Power” telecast produce by Crystal Cathedral Ministries.

The restoration project will include replacing the dated system that used copper cables to connect the console to the individual pipes with fiber-optic cables.

Piero Ruffatti, who helped design the organ, compared the process of restoring the instrument to repairing a priceless oil painting or sculpture.

“This is an important project with a lot of interest around the globe,” said Ruffatti, who arrived on Monday to help oversee the process of dismantling the organ.

The project is part of a \$29 million renovation of the cathedral, which was renamed Christ Cathedral after being acquired by the diocese. The organ will be installed after construction inside the cathedral is finished and will likely be played again in early 2016.



**Doug  
Morino**

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