



APOBA Principles Concerning the Use of Electronically Generated Sounds

Adopted in May 2023

APOBA's mission is to continue to be the professional association of North American pipe organ building firms. We adopt the following principles regarding the inclusion of electronic sounds in pipe organs which carry an APOBA member's nameplate:

1. APOBA members do not replace genuine organ pipes with electronic substitute sounds in their manufacturing output. Electronic sounds are not an improvement over genuine organ pipes.
2. APOBA recognizes and accepts, however, the occasional use of the following electronic sounds in an otherwise complete pipe organ:
 - a. 32' and 16' Pedal stops
 - b. Percussion effects
3. APOBA considers use of electronic sounds beyond those specifically listed above to be a violation of the principles set forth in this position paper, and grounds for dismissal from membership.
4. APOBA considers it dishonest to fail to identify which sound sources are electronically generated. Electronically generated sounds in APOBA member instruments must be identified in all specifications in both promotional materials and contracts.
5. APOBA limits membership to firms which devote their work to pipe organ building. APOBA does not welcome membership of manufacturers of electronic organs, combination electronic/pipe organs, or those who do not follow the principles outlined in this position paper. Allied manufacturer members of APOBA, as suppliers of organ parts and components to the broader industry, are not bound by these principles, so long as they do not produce electronic sounds as their primary business mission.

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