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## Allen Organ Acquired by Smithsonian Institute

The world's first digital musical instrument, built by Allen Organ Company, to become part of Smithsonian's collection of musical instruments.

**MACUNGIE, PENNSYLVANIA, U.S.A. (August 31, 2004)** - Allen Organ Company has announced that the world's first digital musical instrument, the Allen Digital Computer Organ, has been acquired by the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C. The organ was manufactured by Allen in 1971 and installed in St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Easton, PA. In the mid 1990's, after being traded in for a new Allen organ, this organ was placed on display in Allen Organ's factory museum.

Allen Organ Company played a pioneering role in the development of digital sound. When introduced 1971, the Allen Digital Computer Organ was one of only two consumer products in the world to utilize digital technology. The other, the digital calculator, was introduced during the same year. Other musical instruments based on digital sound technology would not be offered for nearly a decade. In addition, the technology used in the Allen Digital Computer Organ was a significant step toward the development of many modern digital sound devices, such as CD's, MP-3 players, personal computer sound cards and much more.

Allen Organ Company has been committed to advancing the art of organ building through new technology for more than sixty years. In addition to introducing the world's first digital organ, Allen was granted the pioneering analog organ patent in 1938.

"We see the Smithsonian's decision to acquire this first digital musical instrument as an acknowledgement of the key role that Allen played in the development of digital sound technology," said Barry Holben, Vice President of Sales at Allen Organ. "This technology was groundbreaking in 1971, and set the stage for many other digital products that changed the way the world experiences music."

*About Allen Organ Company:*

*Allen Organ Company, the largest manufacturer of organs designed for churches and other institutions, has been an innovator of organ technology for more than sixty years. Allen has gained its preeminent position by producing organs of the finest tonal and build qualities. Allen organs are installed in churches, concert halls, universities and homes throughout the world. For more information about Allen Organ Company and its products, please visit the Allen web site at [www.allenorgan.com](http://www.allenorgan.com) or email us at [aointl@allenorgan.com](mailto:aointl@allenorgan.com).*

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