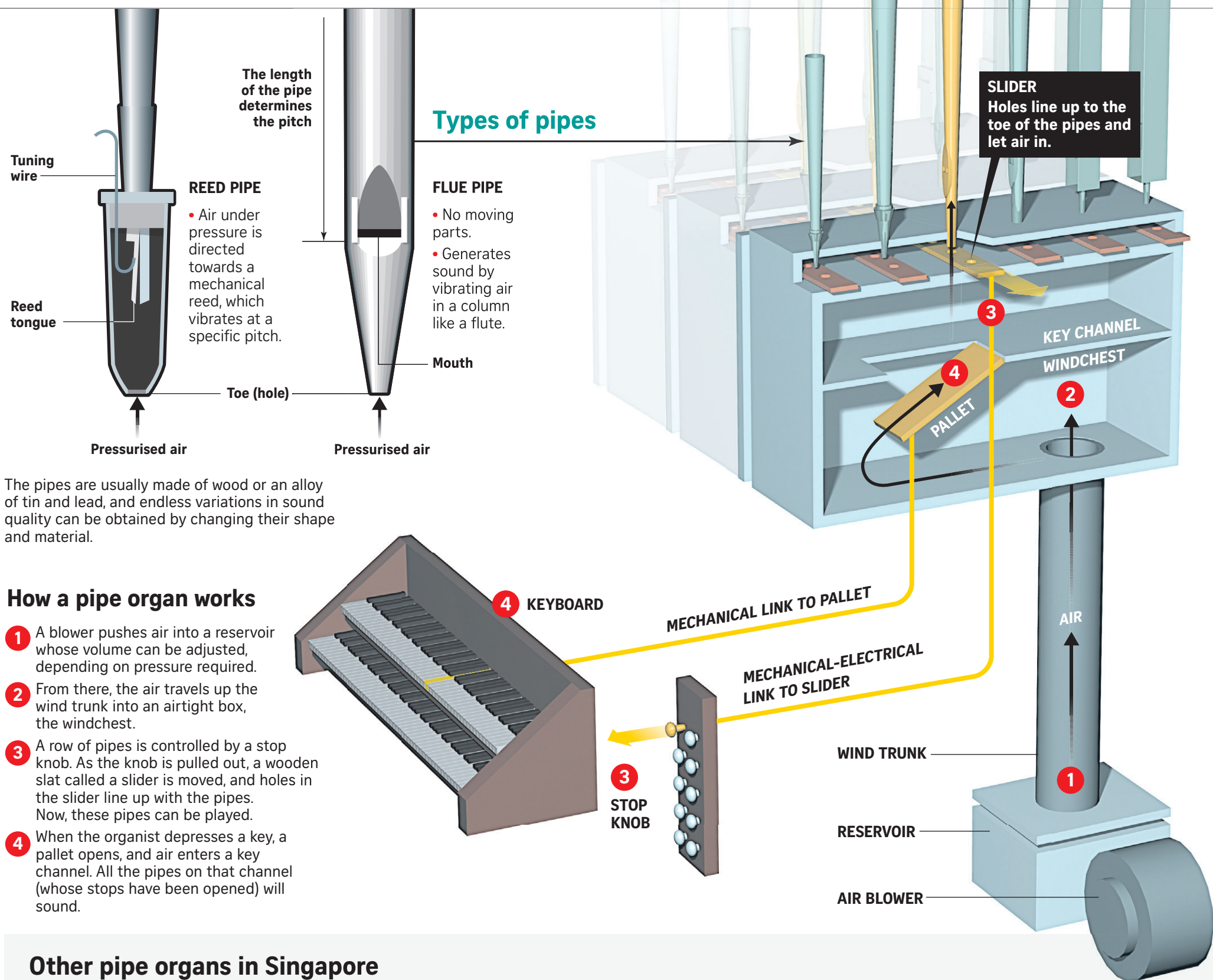


Not your ordinary box of whistles

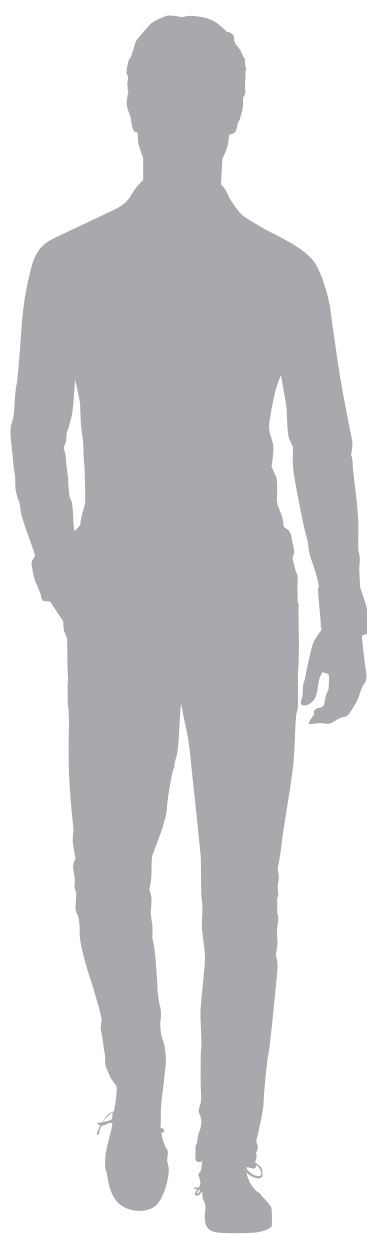
The organ is called the king of instruments not just because it's big. It is a beauty and a beast at the same time — a feat of mechanical engineering that makes beautiful music, unifying two of humanity's great achievements into one.



The Gallery Organ

Among the 10 or so pipe organs in Singapore, the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd's organ is the most special and distinctively Singaporean as it is not only the oldest in Singapore but also extensively enhanced by Singapore's only organ builder over the past few decades. It has a distinctive sound in a reverberant acoustic.

The largest pipe, a flue pipe, is close to 5m tall. The smallest pipe is as small as the length of a finger.



A century of modernisation

- Dedicated on Oct 20, 1912, by Bishop Emile Barillon, the Gallery Organ is a two-manual and pedal Bevington & Sons instrument which cost £5,894.61 to build, ship and install.
- By the 1960s, the Gallery Organ became so dilapidated that it remained silent for nearly two decades.



- Mr Robert Navaratnam (above), Singapore's sole organ builder at the time, repaired and enhanced the organ in the 1980s. He expanded its range, adding 679 more pipes to its original 881.
- During the 2013-16 restoration and renovation of the cathedral, the Gallery Organ was completely dismantled and rebuilt by the Diego Cera Organbuilders from the Philippines. The organ was dismantled and shipped to the Philippines and revoiced and repaired while the cathedral was closed. It took four months to reassemble its 100,000 or so parts on site.
- On Nov 20 last year, the cathedral re-opened and the organ once again filled its halls with music. It has been played almost every day since.

