



CHRIS CHRISTO

John C. DaSilva stands among the hundreds of pipes in just one of the Auditorium's organ chambers.

## Making Auditorium organ 'sing again'

By Maria J. Bunnewith  
Staff Reporter

**WORCESTER** — The 59-year-old organ at the Worcester Memorial Auditorium will be played for its own benefit at a holiday concert next month to raise money for much-needed repairs to the instrument.

The Worcester Memorial Auditorium Organ Restoration Committee is working hard to raise the money needed to tune and make general repairs on the

organ. Still playable, it has not been serviced in any way except occasional tuning since it was built in 1933 by W.W. Kimball Co.

John C. DaSilva, president of the committee formed last May, couldn't guess at how much the repairs will cost since estimates are still coming in. He did say, however, that if the organ were to be replaced today it would cost more than \$1.5 million.

The concert next month will kick off the fund-raising cam-

paign, which could take as long as two years to complete. Work will begin as funds become available, according to DaSilva.

The organ is probably the only one of its kind in the country that has not been altered tonally, according to DaSilva.

The Holiday Musical Extravaganza on Dec. 11 will feature duo-organists Robin Dinda and Renea Waligora; the Men and Boys Choir of All Saints Episcopal Church, Worcester, under the

direction of Ron Stalford; the Master Singers of Worcester under the direction of John Ehrlich; the Ensemble Handbell Ringers of Lancaster under direction of William Ness; soprano soloist A'Lisa Wilhemsen of Lancaster; and a visit from Santa Claus.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. show are \$10 for adults and \$7 for senior citizens. Children under 10 years old and students with identification cards will be admitted for free.