

Johann Adam Berner

Founded/Born

1723 - 1768

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Johann Adam Berner (1723–1768) was a prominent organ builder of the late Baroque period, hailing from a well-known organ-building family in Osnabrück. He learned his craft in his father's workshop and eventually moved his operations to Jever, where he undertook significant projects, including a large three-manual organ that was unfortunately destroyed by fire in 1959. Berner's career was marked by his ambitious projects, which sometimes led to delays and legal disputes, suggesting he may have overextended himself in his planning. Despite these challenges, he made substantial contributions to the field, particularly in northern Germany.

Berner's most notable surviving work is the organ in the St. Florian Church in Sillenstede, built between 1752 and 1757. This instrument originally had nine registers in the Hauptwerk, five in the Brustwerk, and an attached pedal. Although it underwent modifications in the 19th century and further changes in the 20th century by Alfred Führer, a restoration in the 1990s largely returned the organ to its original Baroque sound. Other works by Berner include organ projects in Weene, Pogum, Osteel, and Marienhafe, where his craftsmanship and stylistic influences from Westphalian traditions are evident in the visual and acoustic design of the instruments. His work demonstrates a blend of his local influences and his family's legacy in the organ-building tradition.

Sources

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johann_Adam_Berner

Sillenstede, St. Florian

Mühlenstraße, 26419 Sillenstede, Germany



Builder	J. A. Berner
Year	1757
Period/Style	Baroque
Stops	21
Keyboards	2+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Tuning	Lambert (1784) at 457 Hz

Description

The St. Florian Church in Sillenstede, renowned as the largest Frisian granite block church from the Romanesque period (mid-12th century), houses a historically significant organ built by Johann Adam Berner in 1757. The church itself is a well-preserved structure with massive granite walls, featuring Romanesque windows and simple portals. It served as a refuge during storm surges, reflecting the architectural and cultural history of the region. The church's rich interior includes a cross altar, a pulpit, and a beautifully designed organ case, which adds to its aesthetic and historical value.

The Berner organ, with 21 registers, is a key feature of the church and is used annually for the "Sillensteder Orgelsommer," showcasing works from various composers. Over the centuries, the organ has undergone several renovations and restorations, including significant work by Alfred Führer in the 20th century, which aimed to restore and preserve its historical elements. The most recent renovation in 2018/19 by Martin Wurm continued the efforts to maintain the organ's historical integrity while ensuring its functionality for modern use. The organ remains a central piece of the church's musical and cultural heritage.

Stoplist/Disposition

Hauptwerk	Brustwerk	Pedal
Quintadena 16'	Quintadena 8'	Subbass16'
Principal 8'	Gedackt 4'	Principal 8'
Gedackt 8'	Oktave 2'	Gedackt 8'
Oktave 4'	Spitzflöte 2'	Oktave 4'
Rohrflöte 4'	Cimbel 3f	Nachthorn 2'
Oktave 2'	Regal 8'	Posaune 16'
Sesquialtera 2f		
Mixtur 4f		
Trompete 8'		

Additional: II/I (shove coupler), I/P

Sources

<https://nomine.net/orgel/sillenstede-st-florian/>