

Alain Sals



Founded/Born

1942 - 2018

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Alain Sals (June 7, 1942 - September 5, 2018) was an organ builder from Vaucluse, France.

His first contact with the organ was at the Saint-Jean-de-Malte church in Aix-en-Provence, thanks to the organist Galician. As soon as he could, he joined Jean-Albert Négrel, an organ builder in Roquevaire, who maintained and repaired many instruments in Provence and its surroundings, allowing Sals to become intimately familiar with these instruments. He then spent two years in Le Mans with Pierre Chéron, where he acquired a solid training, especially in precise and reliable mechanisms, thanks to Chéron's son-in-law, Yves Sévère. His aesthetic education and broader knowledge were mainly shaped by Philippe Hartmann in 1963 in Jura, before he settled in Provence, first in Malaucène in 1965, then in Entrechaux in Vaucluse.

At that time, the region had many old instruments, mostly neglected, and Sals took on the task of reviving this heritage by restoring organs in Pertuis, Malaucène, Pernes-les-Fontaines, Caromb, Notre-Dame des Doms in Avignon, Forcalquier, Manosque, Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert, Alès, and Sète. Since then, his work has extended throughout France, both in the construction of new instruments and the restoration of historical ones. He trained and worked with Gérard Guillemain for eight years and later partnered with Charles Henry.

Sources

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alain_Sals

Clermont-l'Hérault, collégiale Saint-Paul (Grand-Orgue)

collégiale Saint-Paul, Clermont-l'Hérault, France



Builder

A. Sals

Year

1988

Period/Style

Classical

Keyaction

tracker/mechanical

Tuning

Unknown

Montpellier, église des Dominicains

Chapelle des Augustins, Montpellier, France



Damien de RICARD

Builder

A. Sals

Year

ca. 1993

Period/Style

Classical

Keyaction

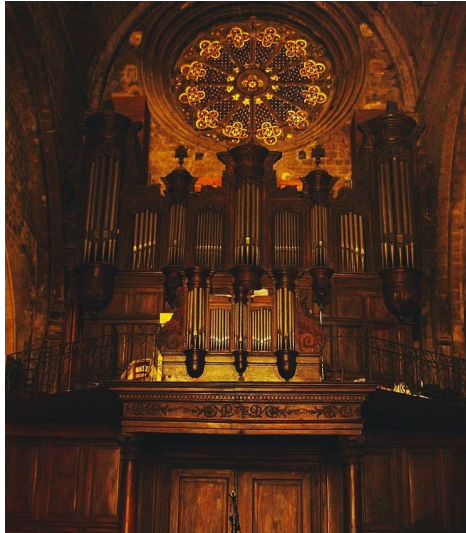
tracker/mechanical

Tuning

Unknown

Forcalquier, Notre-Dame-du-Bourguet

10 Pl. du Bourguet, 04300 Forcalquier, France



| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Builder | A. Sals |
| Year | ca. 2000 |
| Period/Style | Modern |
| Stops | 36 |
| Keyboards | 3+P |
| Keyaction | tracker/mechanical |
| Sampleset | <u>Sonus Paradisi</u> |

Description

The history of the organ in the church of Forcalquier is very turbulent and only a part of the material remained from the baroque period, from the original organ. Most of it comes from a 19th and 20th century restorations.

The cathedral in a small and picturesque French city called Forcalquier had a small organ with 9 stops built by Pierre Marchand in 1627. It is said that during the time of the Revolution, the church and the organ served for the embellishments of the feasts of the new regime. In 1803, the Christian worship was restored in the church. Half a century later, Prosper Antoine Moitessier rebuilt the organ completely, reusing also the ancient material. The Grand orgue had now 22 stops, a Récit expressif (enclosed in a swell-box) and Pedal with 4 stops. The organbuilders Cavaillé-Coll – Mutin made further reconstruction in 1932. They extended the pedal board range and changed the action to the pneumatic one. Recently, the organ was carefully restored and enlarged in two steps in 1981 and 2000 by Alain Sals. The action was changed back to the mechanical one, new Positif de dos was installed using the remaining old pipes, some new stops were added, so that now the organ has 36 speaking stops. The swell-box of the Récit was most probably removed during this restoration.

The composition and the timbre of the organ is typically French, although rather sharp, "chiffy", with a strong feeling of „inégalité“, i. e. there are numerous voicing breaks where suddenly the timbre of the stop changes. The most prominent one is the division of the Voix humaine of the Récit, which is in fact composed of two different stops, one for the Bass part and the other for the Treble part of the keyboard compass.

Stoplist/Disposition

| Positif de dos | Grand Orgue | Récit | Pédale |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Bourdon 8´ | Bourdon 16´ | Bourdon 8´ | Soubasse 16´ |
| Prestant 4´ | Gambe 8' | Flute 4´ | Flute 16´ |
| Flute à cheminée 4´ | Bourdon 8´ | Cornet III | Flute 8´ |
| Nazard 2 2/3´ | Flute 8´ | Dessus de Hautbois 8´ | Flute 4´ |
| Doublette 2´ | Prestant 4´ | Voix Humaine 8´ | Plein Jeu IV |
| Quarte 2´ | Flute 4´ | | Bombarde 16´ |
| Tierce 1 3/5´ | Doublette 2´ | | Trompette 8´ |
| Larigot 1 1/3´ | Sifflet 1´ | | Clairon 4´ |
| Plein-Jeu IV | Cornet V | | |
| Cromorne 8´ | Plein Jeu V | | |
| | 1ère Trompette 8´ | | |
| | 2ème Trompette 8´ | | |
| | Clairon 4´ | | |

Additional: I/II, I/P, II/P, III/P

Sources

<https://www.sonusparadisi.cz/en/organs/france/forcalquier-france.html>