

Andreas Silbermann

Founded/Born

1678 - 1734

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Andreas Silbermann, born in Kleinbobritzsch in 1678, emerged as a pivotal organ builder during the Baroque era in Alsace, contributing significantly to the famed legacy of the Silbermann family in organ construction. He initially trained as a joiner before transitioning to organ building, a field where he refined his skills and established a notable career. By 1701, he had settled in Strasbourg, where he gained citizenship and embarked on several significant projects, often collaborating with his brother, Gottfried Silbermann. Throughout his career, Andreas built or was involved in the construction of 34 organs, incorporating the sophisticated craftsmanship and distinct sound quality that became synonymous with the Silbermann name.

Andreas Silbermann's organs are celebrated for their meticulous craftsmanship and distinctive sound, blending robust German engineering with the nuanced acoustics of French organ design. His work was highly influential in shaping the soundscape of Baroque music within both Catholic and Protestant settings, showcasing a versatile mastery that adapted to varying liturgical needs. His influence extended beyond his lifetime through his sons, who continued the family tradition, and through his lasting contributions to European organ building. Andreas Silbermann passed away in 1734 in Strasbourg, leaving behind a legacy marked by innovative design and enduring musical heritage.

Sources

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andreas_Silbermann

Ebersmunster, Abbatiale Saint-Maurice

Abbatiale Saint-Maurice, Rue du Général Leclerc, 67600 Ebersmunster, France



Builder	A. Silbermann
Year	1732
Period/Style	Baroque
Stops	29
Keyboards	3+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Sampleset	<u>OrganArt Media</u>

Description

The Andreas-Silbermann organ, installed in 1732 at the Abteikirche St. Maurice in Ebersmünster, Alsace, France, stands as a remarkable testament to the enduring quality and artistry of its maker. This organ is one of only two remaining instruments by Andreas Silbermann that are largely preserved in their original form. Constructed during the final phases of the church's architectural completion by Peter Thumb, a noted Baroque architect, the organ miraculously survived the French Revolution and subsequent wars, leading to its protection as a historic monument in 1971/72 along with the organ loft and case.

This instrument features three manuals and 29 stops, adhering to the French organ-building tradition with specifications such as *Plein Jeu*, *Jeu de tierce*, and *Grand Jeu*, yet incorporates a fully developed pedalboard in the German style, contrasting the typically shorter pedal range found in French Baroque organs. Its tonal design reflects a softer voicing compared to Silbermann's earlier works, showcasing exquisite flutes, a Cornet, and vocal mixtures. Notably, the inclusion of a *Quarte de Nazard* in the *Grand Orgue* offers deep foundational registrations, blending French Baroque characteristics with a distinct "South German accent." After its comprehensive restoration in 1997-98, the organ is celebrated as one of Europe's most valuable historical instruments, capable of authentically performing not just French but a broad range of European Baroque music. The church's acoustics, with a reverberation time of up to 5.5 seconds, further enhance its majestic sound.

Stoplist/Disposition

I Positif de dos	II Grand Orgue	III Echo	Pedale
Bourdon 8	Bourdon 16	Bourdon 8 (perm.)	Soubasse ouvert 16
Prestant 4	Montre 8	Prestant 4	Octavebasse 8
Nazard 2 2/3	Bourdon 8	Cornet III	Bombarde 16
Doublette 2	Prestant 4	Trompette 8	Trompette 8
Tierce 1 3/5	Nazard 2 2/3		Clairon 4
Fourniture III	Quarte de Nazard 2		
Cromorne 8	Tierce 1 3/5		
	Fourniture III		
	Cymbale III		
	Cornet V		
	Trompette basse+dessus 8		
	Clairon b.+d. 4		
	Voix humaine 8		

Additional: POS-G.O. (shove coupler), Tremblant douce, Tremblant fort

Sources

<https://www.organartmedia.com/de/andreas-silbermann>