

Abraham Starck

Founded/Born

1659 - 1709

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Abraham Starck (also known as Abraham Stark; born in 1659 in Elbogen, North Bohemia; died March 18, 1709, in the same place) was the most prominent Bohemian organ builder of the Baroque period.

His father, Andreas Starck, was an organist in Elbogen (Loket) and later became the mayor there. His mother was Margarethe, née Francke[n]. Abraham Starck possibly apprenticed with Michael Kanhäuser. After his apprenticeship, he likely worked in Prague for a time. A first known commission dates from 1683 for the Strahov Monastery in Prague. He later established an organ-building workshop in his hometown of Elbogen.

Abraham Starck is considered the most significant organ builder in Bohemia of his time and is often referred to as the Bohemian Silbermann. He founded the Elbogen organ school, which was continued by his students Johann Adam Pleyer and Franz Fassmann, as well as by his brother Wenzel Starck. Another of his students was Johann Leopold Burkhardt.

Sources

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

Zlatá Koruna, Nanebevzetí Panny Marie

Zlatá Koruna 1, 382 02 Zlatá Koruna, Czechia



Builder	A. Starck
Year	ca. 1699
Period/Style	Baroque
Stops	20
Keyboards	2+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Sampleset	<u>Sonus Paradisi</u>

Description

The Monastery church of Zlatá Koruna shelters a well preserved Baroque organ from 1698-1699. It was built by Abraham Starck z Lokte (1659-1709), the founder and the most prominent organ builder of so called Loket school. This school was functioning from the 17th to the beginning of 19th century.

There was a number of restaurations: 1898 J.Fischpera lowered the tuning by physically moving the pipes by a semitone. He also located the drawstops of the RückPositiv onto the stop jambs in the vicinity of the keyboards. Originally, these were placed directly on the RückPositiv itself - though behind the the organist. The original placement of the RückPositiv drawstops may still be observed on the picture.

Other, this time very unfortunate restoration, was done in 1941 by E. Hruby. He replaced some of the aliquote stops (both Quints in HW, Quint and Octave 2 in RP) by new "romantic" string stops of the fashion of that time. Besides that he changed the order of keyboards. Originally, the RückPositiv was played from the lower keyboard, the HW from the upper one. Now, the lower keyboard is the Hauptwerk and the RückPositiv is the upper one.

The original pipes were fortunately preserved, so the organbuilder Vladimír Slajch put them back to their original place during the latest restoration around the year 1984. The Baroque short octave is preserved up to the present times.

The pedal division offers one curiosity which is sometimes observed in the Czech Baroque organs. In the upper octave, the semitones play the lower octave as they are missing there because of the

short octave mechanism.

Stoplist/Disposition

Hauptwerk	RückPositiv	Pedal
Principal 8' (Prospekt)	Copula 8'	Violon 16'
Bordun Fletna 8'	Principal 4'	Subbas 16'
Salicional 4'	Fletna 4'	OctavBass 8'
Octava 4'	Quinta 3'	QuintBass 5'
Quinta 3'	Octava 2'	ChoralBass 4'
Octava 2'	Sesquialtera 2x 1 1/3'	
Quinta 1 1/3'	Mixtura 3x (1')	
Mixtura 5x (1')		

Additional: RP/HW

Sources

<https://www.sonusparadisi.cz/en/organs/czech/zlata-koruna.html>