

Christoph Donat / Donati

Founded/Born

1625 - 1706

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Christoph Donat, born on September 30, 1625, in Marienberg and died on August 14, 1706, in Leipzig, was the founder of a notable organ-building dynasty. His early career saw him assisting Matthias Tretzscher in building the organ for the Stadtkirche in Bayreuth in 1653. By 1662, Donat had settled in Leipzig, obtaining citizenship, and began taking on significant repair and construction projects, including the repair of Tobias Weller's organ in the Stadtkirche Weißenfels in 1663.

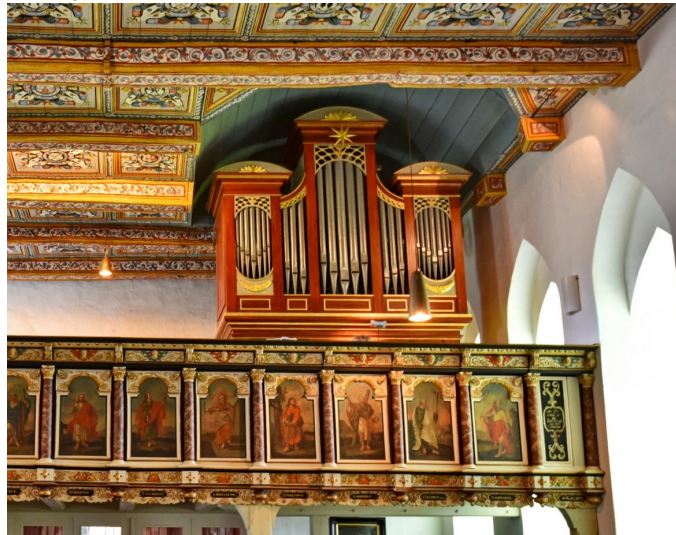
Donat succeeded Johann Diettrich as the court organ builder in Altenburg from 1665 to 1690, where he was responsible for maintaining various keyboard instruments in the ducal court, including organs and harpsichords. His work included expanding the "Kleine Orgel" in the Thomaskirche, Leipzig, in 1683 and modifying the 1617 Compenius organ in Markranstädt in 1689. Donat's influence extended beyond organ building, as he was also involved in producing clavichords in his Leipzig workshop. His legacy continued through his sons, particularly Christoph the Younger and Johannes Jacobus the Elder, who followed in his footsteps in the organ-building craft.

Sources

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donati_\(Orgelbauerfamilie\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donati_(Orgelbauerfamilie))

Neuenkirchen, St. Marien

Dorfstraße, 21763 Neuenkirchen, Germany



Builder	C. Donat / Donati
Year	ca. 1662
Period/Style	Baroque
Stops	18
Keyboards	2+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Tuning	Werckmeister III at 466 Hz

Description

The organ in St. Marien Church, Neuenkirchen (Land Hadeln), was originally built by Christoph Donat in Leipzig in 1661/62. It was transported via waterways to Neuenkirchen and installed in the church in 1662. Over the centuries, various organ builders, including Johann Werner Klappmeyer, Dietrich Christoph Gloger, and Georg Wilhelmy, have worked on the organ. The current organ case was designed by Georg Wilhelmy in 1835/36. The most recent comprehensive restoration occurred between 1968 and 1973, undertaken by Paul Ott from Göttingen and Rudolf von Beckerath from Hamburg.

The organ features 18 stops spread across two manuals and a pedal, with an unequal temperament and wind supply from a wedge bellows that give the instrument a vibrant and colorful sound. The organ's historical and tonal characteristics make it a significant and preserved example of Baroque organ craftsmanship, enriched by later enhancements and restorations.

Stoplist/Disposition

Hauptwerk	Oberwerk	Pedal
Principal 8'	Lieulich Gedact 8'	Untersatz 16'
Gedact 8'	Rohrflöte 4'	Gedact 8'
Octave 4'	Spitzflöte 2'	Octave 4'
Quinte 3'	Sesquialter 2f	Posaune 16'
Octave 2'	Dulcian 16'	Trompete 8'
Mixtur 4f	Trompete 8'	Trompete 4'

Additional: II/I (shove coupler), Tremulant, Akkordglocken

Sources

<https://nomine.net/orgel/neuenkirchen-land-hadeln-st-marien/>