

Diego Cera

Founded/Born

1762 - 1834

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Fray Diego Cera Dela Virgen Del Carmen (1762-1834) was a Spanish missionary in the Phillipines who came from Graus (Huesca, Spain). When Fr. Cera arrived in 1792, he was immediately assigned to construct a large organ for the mother church of the Recoletos in San Nicolas, the present site of Manila Bulletin. In December 26, 1795, Fr. Cera was assigned as parish priest to Las Pinas.

Sources

<https://bamboo-organ.com/history/>

Las Piñas, Las Piñas Bamboo Organ

1742 Quirino Ave, 1742 Metro Manila Las Piñas, Philippines



Builder	D. Cera
Year	ca. 1824
Period/Style	Baroque
Stops	22
Keyboards	2+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical

Description

The man behind this masterpiece was a Spanish missionary called Fray Diego Cera Dela Virgen Del Carmel, who was in fact, the first parish priest in Las Piñas during the Spanish era. He came from the town of Graus (Huesca, Spain), but he settled in this part of the Philippines from 1795 to 1830.

Fr. Diego Cera started with the construction of the bamboo organ in 1816 and it was finished eight years after in 1824. It has gone through a lot since then.

During the 1880s, there was a typhoon and earthquake that damaged the roof of the church, which left the bamboo organ open to nature's elements. The rainwater and stones got inside the organ case, which destroyed the instrument and made it unplayable for years. After that, the pipes were stored in the old sacristy and were forgotten about until around 1917 when a tourist rediscovered its beauty.

It was only in 1972 when the bamboo organ restoration project began. Johannes Klais Orgelbau was the one who was awarded the contract, and he had the organ shipped all the way to Bonn, Germany in 1973. After about a couple of years, the bamboo organ returned to its homeland in 1975.

Stoplist/Disposition

Mano Yzquierda (bass) FF-c1	Mano Derecha (treble) c#1-f3	Pedal FF-E
Flautado violin 8'	Flautado violin 16'	Contras (II) 4'
Flautado major 4'	Flautado major 8'	
Octava 1o 2'	Travizera (II, Celeste) 8'	
Octava 2o 2'	Octava 1o 4'	
Docena 1o 1 1/3'	Octava 2o 4'	
Docena 2o 1 1/3'	Otavina 4'	
Quincena 1o 1'	Docena 1o + 2o (II) 2 2/3'	
Quincena 2o 1'	Quincena 1o + 2o (II) 2'	
Bajoncillo (chamade) 4'	Corneta (mounted, V) 8'	
Clarin campana (chamade) 2'	Clarin claro (chamade) 8'	
	Clarin campana (chamade) 8'	

Additional: Pajaritos (bird song, 7 pipes) , Tambor ("drums", 2 pipes)

Sources

<https://www.laspinacity.gov.ph/lifestyle/18/bamboo-organ>

<https://www.wazzup.ph/discover-the-worlds-largest-and-oldest-bamboo-organ-in-las-pinas/>

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