

Erasmus Bielfeldt

Founded/Born

1682 - 1753

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Erasmus Bielfeldt (1682–1753) was a German organ builder of the 18th century, likely born in Stade. Although it is suggested that he may have been a student of the renowned organ builder Arp Schnitger, this connection remains unproven. Bielfeldt's organ designs share similarities with Schnitger's, particularly in their tonal qualities, but notably, they do not include Rückpositive (rear positives), which distinguishes his style. His early career included significant work in Lüneburg, where he married and started a family. He then worked in Celle and Bremen, constructing new organs for various churches and undertaking numerous repairs.

Bielfeldt's most famous work is the organ in St. Wilhadi Church in Stade, completed in 1736. His career primarily spanned the region between the Elbe and Weser rivers, and he is credited with building at least eight organs. Despite his modest output compared to some of his contemporaries, Bielfeldt's work has left a lasting impact on the organ landscape of northern Germany. He passed away in 1753 in Hoya, at the age of 70.

Sources

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

Stade, St. Wilhadi (Main Organ)

St. Wilhadi, Kirchhof, 21682 Stade, Germany



Builder	E. Bielfeldt
Year	1736
Period/Style	Baroque
Stops	40
Keyboards	3+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Tuning	Werckmeister III at 473 Hz

Description

The Erasmus Bielfeldt organ in St. Wilhadi, Stade, built in 1736, is a significant example of Baroque organ craftsmanship. This organ replaced an earlier instrument destroyed by a lightning strike in 1724. Bielfeldt, likely a native of Stade, constructed the new organ, which was inaugurated in January 1736. The organ originally featured 40 stops distributed across three manuals and a pedal, embodying the grandeur and complexity typical of North German Baroque organs. It has undergone various modifications over the centuries, including significant alterations in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

A comprehensive restoration by Jürgen Ahrend from 1987 to 1990 aimed to return the organ to its original Baroque condition, both in terms of technical and tonal qualities. This restoration reinstated the organ's historical sound, allowing it to once again reflect the rich, vibrant tones characteristic of its era. Today, the St. Wilhadi organ stands as a remarkable testament to the legacy of Erasmus Bielfeldt, one of the prominent organ builders of the late Baroque period, and continues to be a vital part of the church's musical heritage.

Stoplist/Disposition

Hauptwerk	Positiv	Brustwerk	Pedal
Principal 16'	Octave 8'	Flute douce 8'	Principal 16'
Quintatön 16'	Rohrflöte 8'	Octave 4'	Subbaß 16'
Octave 8'	Quintadena 8'	Flute douce 4'	Octave 8'
Viola da Gamba 8'	Octave 4'	Superoctave 2'	Octave 4'
Gedact 8'	Quinte 3'	Quinte 1 1/2'	Rauschquinte 2f
Octave 4'	Octave 2'	Scharf 3-4f	Mixtur 4-5f
Nashat 3'	Sesquialtera 2f	Dulcian 8'	Posaune 16'
Octave 2'	Scharf 3-4f	Schalmey 4'	Trompete 8'
Mixtur 4-6f	Fagott 16'		Trompete 4'
Cimbel 3f	Vox humana 8'		Trompete 2'
Trompete			
Trompete 8'			

Additional: BW/HW (shove coupler), Tremulant, 2 Zimbelsterne

Sources

<https://nomine.net/orgel/stade-st-wilhadi/>