

# Ernst Seifert

Raderberg, Köln, Germany



**Founded/Born**

1855 - 1928

**Closed/Death**

**Still active?**

no

## Description

Ernst Hubert Seifert (born May 9, 1855, in Sülzdorf; died April 27, 1928, in Cologne) was a German organ builder and the founder of three organ building companies, including the notable Romanus Seifert & Sohn. Seifert, the son of a Thuringian forester, trained as an organ builder under Jahn in Dresden. He made significant contributions to 19th-century organ building, notably through his invention of a unique membrane chest that operated precisely without requiring special wind or spring pressure. He patented this construction and sold it to the organ builder Schneider in Mudersbach.

In 1885, Seifert established his own organ building workshop in the Cologne district of Mannsfeld (today's Raderberg) and in 1906, he founded a branch in Kevelaer to manage the new organ construction at the local Marienbasilika. His brothers Gotthard and Eberhard, as well as his sons Ernst Jr., Walter, and Romanus, also worked in his workshop. Romanus took over the Kevelaer branch in 1914 and eventually ran it independently. Ernst Jr. later started his own business in Bergisch Gladbach. Walter continued to operate the original Cologne workshop under his father's name, resulting in two separate companies named Ernst Seifert. The Cologne branch ceased operations at the end of 1981/82, leaving the Kevelaer location as the primary seat of the business, now known as Orgelbau Romanus Seifert & Sohn GmbH & Co.

## Sources

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernst\\_Seifert\\_\(Orgelbauer\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernst_Seifert_(Orgelbauer))

## Kevelaer Mitte, Marienbasilika (Main Organ)

St. Marien Basilika, Kapellenplatz , 47623 Kevelaer Mitte, Germany



<b>Builder</b>	E. Seifert
<b>Year</b>	ca. 1907
<b>Period/Style</b>	Romantic
<b>Stops</b>	140
<b>Keyboards</b>	4+P
<b>Keyaction</b>	electro-pneumatic

### Description

The pipe organ was constructed by Ernst Seifert (Cologne and Kevelaer) in 1905-07. Initially, in 1907, it was built with a remote console, the main organ was fully pneumatic, the remote console being electropneumatic, with an additional console.

In 1926, it was expanded to have four manuals (keyboards) and 126 stops, and was converted to electropneumatics. During WWII in 1945, the organ was restored to four manuals with 110 stops after suffering war damage. However, the original neo-Gothic casing was destroyed and later incinerated.

In 1977, reconstruction began and the organ was restored without its remote console; the casing was also reconstructed. Restoration was concluded in 1982 with the addition of a subwork of 13 registers on electric slider chests, which later became the auxiliary work.

In 1987, for the Pope's visit, it was further expanded with the Bombarden keyboard (Tuba magna 16', Tuba mirabilis 8', Cor harmonique 4'). This was followed by an overhaul and cleaning after a church fire in 2002, and reconstruction of the original console.

In 2004, the remote console which had been destroyed in the war was reconstructed. In 2010, efforts began to restore the organ to its original condition, introducing the first register of Viola 16' in the upperwork as an anniversary gift from Seifert for their 125th company anniversary, and installing the original Euphone 8' in the mainwork which had been removed in 1980.

By 2018, the organ had been fully restored, with the exception a few missing registers and the remote console which was deemed unfit for the original's design. These missing parts were replaced in the years that followed, with complete cleaning in 2022 and introduction of the last missing registers.

The pipe organ is housed in a neo-Gothic swallow's nest, measuring 14m in height, 9m in width, and

10m in depth.

## Stoplist/Disposition

I Hauptwerk	II Oberwerk	III Schwellwerk	IV Fernwerk	Pedal
Principal 16'	Viola 16'	Salicet 16'	Bordun 16'	Contrabass 32'
Bordun 16'	Gedackt 16'	Lieblich Gedackt 16'	Principal 8'	Bordun 32'
Gambe 16'	Principal 8'	Principal major 8'	Seraphon Flöte 8'	Principalbass 16'
Seraphon Principal 8'	Seraphon Gamba 8'	Geigenprincipal 8'	Gedackt 8'	Octavbass 16'
Principal 8'	Seraphon Gedackt 8'	Seraphon Concertflöte 8'	Violine 8'	Violon 16'
Seraphon Fugara 8'	Flaut harmonique 8'	Seraphon Violine 8'	Aeoline 8'	Subbass 16'
Seraphon Flöte 8'	Rohrflöte 8'	Horn 8'	Vox coelestis 8'	Gedacktbass 16'
Flaut major 8'	Cello 8'	Flaut Amabile 8'	Labial Oboe 8'	Salicetbass 16'
Gemshorn 8'	Vox Angelica 8'	Salicional 8'	Quintatön 8'	Quintbass 102/3'
Gedackt 8'	Dolce 8'	Gedackt 8'	Octave 4'	Principal 8'
Gambe 8'	Quintatön 8'	Aeoline 8'	Traversflöte 4'	Cello 8'
Violine 8'	Octave 4'	Vox coelestis 8'	Waldflöte 2'	Bassflöte 8'
Quinte 51/3'	Rohrflöte 4'	Octave 4'	Sesquialter 2f	Bordun 8'
Seraphon Octave 4'	Flauto dolce 4'	Traversflöte 4'	Trompete 8'	Dulciana 8'
Seraphon Fugara 4'	Violine 4'	Nachthorn 4'	Cor Anglais 8'	Terzbass 62/5'
Octave 4'	Septime 22/7'	Gemshorn 4'	Physharmonika 16'	Quinte 51/3'
Hohlflöte 4'	Nasard 22/3'	Cremona 4'	Physharmonika 8'	Septime 44/7'
Flauto 4'	Octave 2'	Quintflöte 22/3'	Celesta	Seraphon Fugara 4'
Terz 31/5'	Piccolo 2'	Flautino 2'	Tuba magna 16'	Octave 4'
Quinte 22/3'	Terz 13/5'	Terzflöte 13/5'	Tuba mirabilis 8'	Flöte 4'
Octave 2'	Progressio 3f	Harmonia aetheria 3f	Cor harmonique 4'	Bombarde 32'
Flauto 2'	Mixtur 4f	Cornett 5f	Seraphon Celesta	Posaune 16'
Octavin 1'	Cornett 5f	Mixtur 5f	Cymbelstern	Trompete 16'
Mixtur 5f	Fagott 16'	Carrillon 3f		Trompete 8'
Cymbel 5f	Trompete 8'	Tuba 16'		Fagott 8'
Cornett 2-4f	Clarinetten 8'	Trompete 8'		Clairon 4'
Tuba 16'	Schalmei 8'	Oboe 8'		Seraphon Clarino 2'
Trompete 8'	Trompete 4'	Krummhorn 8'		Subbass 16'
Euphone 8'		Vox humana 8'		Gedacktbass 16'
		Clairon 4'		Octavbass 8'

**Additional:** :, II/I, III/I, IV/I, III/II, IV/II, IV/III, I/P, II/P, III/P, IV/P, Bombardenclavier und Seraphon Celesta an jedes Manual und Pedal koppelbar, Sub II/I, Sub III/I, Sub IV/I, Sub III/II, Sub IV/II, Sub IV/III, Super I/I, Super II/I, Super III/I, Super IV/I, Super III/II, Super Super IV/II, Super IV/III, Super III/III, Super IV/IV, Super I/P , Melodiekoppel: I/I (Super), Quintkoppel: P/P, Tremulant III Schwellwerk, 14 fixed combinations, 2 free combinations, Setzeranlage, Crescendowalze

## **Sources**

[https://organindex.de/index.php?title=Kevelaer,\\_Marienbasilika\\_\(Hauptorgel\)](https://organindex.de/index.php?title=Kevelaer,_Marienbasilika_(Hauptorgel))