

Ernst Wilhelm Meyer

Founded/Born

1779 - 1868

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Ernst Wilhelm Meyer (1779–1868) was a prominent German organ builder in the Kingdom of Hanover. He apprenticed with Hinrich Just Müller in Wittmund and Hoforgelbauer Wilhelm Heinrich Bethmann in Hanover, followed by journeyman years working with notable organ builders such as Johann Wolfgang Witzmann in Bremen and Johann Wilhelm Grüneberg in Brandenburg. In 1806, Meyer settled in Hanover and established his own workshop in 1810. He married Christiane Jochums and was appointed Hoforgelbauer (court organ builder) in 1834, a position he had aspired to since the death of Christian Bethmann in 1833.

Meyer's reputation grew quickly, leading to a wide array of commissions throughout the Kingdom of Hanover and beyond, including the delivery of an organ to Wyborg, then part of Finland. He became known for his exceptional craftsmanship and was frequently called upon for expert evaluations by the consistory. Despite competition from Philipp Furtwängler and others, Meyer's workshop flourished, building over 100 organs. His sons, Eduard and Carl Wilhelm Meyer, joined the business, with Carl Wilhelm taking over the workshop in 1838. The Meyer workshop maintained its excellent reputation until it closed in 1870, two years after Ernst Wilhelm's death.

Sources

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

Bergen an der Dumme, Paulus-Kirche

Breite Straße, 29468 Bergen an der Dumme, Germany



| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Builder | E. W. Meyer |
| Year | 1842 |
| Period/Style | Romantic |
| Stops | 16 |
| Keyboards | 2+P |
| Keyaction | tracker/mechanical |
| Tuning | Neidhardt III at 440 Hz |

Description

The Meyer organ in the St. Vitus Church in Bergen an der Dumme is an exemplary piece of 19th-century organ building. Created by the court organ builder Ernst Wilhelm Meyer in 1842, the organ incorporates a warm foundational tone with bright and intense higher registers, making it versatile for a broad repertoire. Its rich sound benefits greatly from the acoustics of the classicist church where it is housed.

The organ underwent various modifications and restorations over the years. Notable restorations include those by Friedrich Altendorf in 1865 and R. Voigt in 1894/95. During World War I, the original prospect pipes were requisitioned for the war effort. Post-World War II, Emil Hammer replaced the damaged Salicional 8' register. In 1960, the organ was placed under monument protection, preventing significant alterations to its technical and tonal structure. The most comprehensive restoration was completed by Gebr. Hillebrand in 1992, which included reinstating prospect pipes with a high tin-lead alloy, preserving the organ's historical integrity.

Stoplist/Disposition

| I. Manual | II. Manual | Pedal |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Bourdon 16' | Gedact 8' | Subbaß 16' |
| Principal 8' | Salcional 8' | Octavbaß 8' |
| Rohrflöte 8' | Gemshorn 4' | Octavbaß 4' |
| Octave 4' | Waldflöte 2' | Posaune 16' |
| Quinte 3' | | Trompete 8' |
| Octave 2' | | |
| Mixtur 3f | | |

Additional: II/I, Calcantenzug

Sources

<https://nomine.net/orgel/bergen-an-der-dumme-pauluskirche/>