

Friedrich Albert Daniel Mehmel



Founded/Born

1827 - 1888

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Friedrich Albert Daniel Mehmel, born on December 6, 1827, in Allstedt, Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach, and died on July 4, 1888, in Stralsund, Province of Pomerania, was a distinguished German organ builder based in Stralsund. He is celebrated as the most prominent organ builder in Pomerania of his time, alongside Barnim Grüneberg from Stettin. Starting his career under notable influences like Ibach and Friedrich Ladegast, Mehmel absorbed significant artistic and technical skills, which were later enhanced by the innovations of Aristide Cavallé-Coll during Mehmel's time in France. In 1858, after the passing of Matthias Fernau, Mehmel took over Fernau's workshop and continued his craft in Stralsund, eventually obtaining citizenship and marrying Marie Johanne Elise Caroline Raabe in 1859.

Mehmel's career expanded rapidly, leading to the establishment of a significant organ building operation in Stralsund and later a branch in Wismar. His organs were known for their mechanical precision and featured both slider and cone chests. Mehmel developed his patented "Präcisionslade" windchest, enhancing the quality and reliability of his instruments. His work spanned across northern Germany, and he received the title of Court Organ Builder of the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz after building the organ for Ratzeburg Cathedral. His legacy includes 74 known organs built across regions like Pomerania, Mecklenburg, Schleswig-Holstein, and occasionally abroad. Despite the destruction and remodeling of many of his instruments over the years, approximately 70% of his creations have been preserved, reflecting his significant contribution to the organ building heritage in Germany.

Sources

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Mehmel_\(Orgelbauer\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Mehmel_(Orgelbauer))

Nehringen, St. Andreas

St. Andreas, 18513 Nehringen, Germany



Builder	F. A. D. Mehmel
Year	1868
Period/Style	Romantic
Stops	13
Keyboards	2+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Tuning	Equal at 440 Hz
Sampleset	<u>OrganArt Media</u>

Description

The St. Andreas Church in Nehringen, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, houses a significant piece of musical heritage—the 1868 F. A. Mehmel organ. This organ is set within the chapel originally built around 1350, with its current baroque appearance resulting from extensive renovations between 1721 and 1726 during the Swedish governance. The church's interior is richly decorated with large gallery paintings, a renaissance altar from 1598 featuring Italian marble reliefs, and various baroque elements like the pulpit and the patronage loge, contributing to its historical and artistic value. Notably, the church represents one of the last surviving ensembles of Swedish Baroque architecture in Vorpommern.

The Mehmel organ is a romantic-style slider chest organ, typical of village churches in the region during the 19th century, known for its warm foundational tones and strings like the Viola di Gamba and Geigenprincipal. Influenced by Cavaillé-Coll, it includes unique tonal qualities such as the Flauto amabile and a non-repeating mix called Progressio Harmonica, which allows for clear performances of Bach's works. The organ suffered from vandalism and neglect, leading to a non-functional state until its restoration in 1994 by Sauer Organ Builders, which involved reconstructing damaged pipes and those lost during World War I. The church now enjoys a revived community and cultural life, hosting regular concerts in a space with about 2.5 seconds of reverberation, further enhancing the organ's sound.

Stoplist/Disposition

Hauptwerk	Hinterwerk	Pedal
Bordun 16	Geigenprincipal 8	Subbass 16
Gedact 8	Flauto amabile 8	Gedactbass 8
Viola di Gamba 8	Flauto amabile 4	Violon 8
Principal 8		
Octave 4		
Rohrflöte 4		
Progressio Harmonica 2-3 fach		

Additional: HIW-HW, HW-P, Kalkantenzug

Sources

<https://www.organartmedia.com/de/f-a-mehmel>