

Franz Caspar Schnitger

Founded/Born

1693 - 1729

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Franz Caspar Schnitger, baptized on October 15, 1693, in Neuenfelde and buried on March 5, 1729, in Zwolle, was a prominent German organ builder who continued his career in the Netherlands, particularly after the death of his father, the famous organ builder Arp Schnitger, in 1719. Together with his brother Johann Jürgen, Franz Caspar moved their father's workshop to Zwolle, where they completed the significant organ project at Sint-Michaëlskerk that Arp had planned. This move marked the continuation and eventual evolution of the Schnitger family's legacy in organ building outside Germany.

Franz Caspar's personal life intertwined closely with his professional activities. He married Anna Margreta Debbert, daughter of a councilman from Usedom, in January 1720 in Hamburg, and they had four children. After his early death, his workshop was taken over by his master apprentice Albertus Antonius Hinsz, who married his widow in 1732, ensuring the continuation of the Schnitger organ-building tradition. This lineage extended through Hinsz's stepson, Frans Casper Snitger the younger, and later through Heinrich Hermann Freytag and his son, Herman Eberhard Freytag, sustaining the Schnitger organ-building heritage in the Netherlands well into the mid-19th century, even as it dwindled in Germany following the deaths of Arp Schnitger and his immediate successors.

Sources

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

Vollenhove, St. Nicolaas of Grote Kerk

St. Nicolaas of Grote Kerk, Kerkplein 4, 8325 BN Vollenhove, Netherlands



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|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Builder | F. C. Schnitger |
| Year | 1720 |
| Period/Style | Baroque |
| Stops | 27 |
| Keyboards | 2+P |
| Keyaction | tracker/mechanical |
| Tuning | Werckmeister I at 420 Hz |
| Sampleset | <u>OrganArt Media</u> |

Description

The Bosch/F.C. Schnitger organ, located in the Grote of Sint Nicolaas Kerk in Vollenhove, Overijssel, Netherlands, has undergone several modifications and restorations since its initial construction in 1686 and its substantial overhaul by Frans Caspar Schnitger in 1720. Frans Caspar, noted for possibly surpassing his father Arp Schnitger's craftsmanship, was renowned for his work on significant organs such as the one in St. Michael's Church in Zwolle and the Van Hagerbeer organ in St. Laurenskerk in Alkmaar. In Vollenhove, he installed a new windchest in the Rückpositiv and added several labial and reed stops, likely adjusting the intonation and making extensions similar to those he later implemented in Alkmaar.

In 1860, Jan van Loo of Zwolle enhanced the organ by adding pedal towers on each side of the main work, integrating six pedal registers of such high quality that they closely matched the original Schnitger registers. These additions are still part of the organ today. Significant to this organ's history is the preservation of its 1686 front pipes (Prestant), which survived numerous changes over the centuries. In 1977, the Van Vulpen brothers from Utrecht meticulously restored the organ to its 1720 condition, keeping the 1860 pedal registers and extending all pipes to return to the original pitch of A=415, tuning it according to Werckmeister I.

Today, the organ is celebrated for its rich Prestant tones dating back to 1686, the bright and clear acoustics of the church that provide a reverberation time of 4-5 seconds, and the quality of both Schnitger's reed stops and the additional pedal registers. The organ is also noteworthy for its original Cornet register, a rare feature in Northern Netherlands and unusual in Schnitger organs, adding to its historical and musical significance.

Stoplist/Disposition

| Rugpositief | Hoofdwerk | Pedaal |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Holpijp 8 VT | Prestant 8 VT | Subbas 16 VT |
| Prestant 4 VT | Bourdon 8 VT bas, disc | Prestant 8 VT |
| Fluit 4 VT | Roerfluit 8 VT bas, disc | Holfluit 8 VT |
| Nasard 3 VT | Octaaf 4 VT | Octaaf 4 VT |
| Octaaf 2 VT | Fluit 4 VT bas, disc | Trombone 8 VT |
| Woudfluit 2 VT | Fluit 2 VT bas, disc | Bazuin 16 VT |
| Mixtuur 4 ST | Octaaf 2 VT | |
| Sexquialter 2 ST | Mixtuur 2-4 ST | |
| Dulciaan 8 VT | Cimbel 4-6 ST | |
| | Trompet 8 VT bas, disc | |
| | Vox Humana 8 VT | |
| | Cornet 4 ST | |

Additional: Pedaal + Hoofdwerk, Pedaal + Rugwerk, Rugwerk + Hoofdwerk (shove coupler), Tremulant

Sources

<https://www.organartmedia.com/de/bosch-f-c-schnitger>

Wijnjewoude, Hervormde kerk Duurswoude

Hervormde kerk Duurswoude, Breeberchspaed, 9241 WP Wijnjewoude, Netherlands



| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Builder | F. C. Schnitger |
| Year | ca. 1723 |
| Period/Style | Baroque |
| Stops | 9 |
| Keyboards | 1+P |
| Keyaction | tracker/mechanical |
| Tuning | 1/6 Comma Meantone at 460 Hz |
| Sampleset | <u>OrganArt Media</u> |

Description

The organ in the Hervormde Kerk of Duurswoude in Friesland, Netherlands, has a remarkable history dating back to its original construction by Frans Caspar Schnitger in 1723, originally intended for the Lutheran Church in Zwolle. This instrument was notably relocated and installed in 1917 by organ builder Proper of Kampen. O.B. Wiersma identified and revealed this significant historical fact in 1972, noting the organ's side-twisted layout which indicated it was initially designed as a Rückpositiv for another organ project that was never completed.

Over the centuries, the organ underwent various modifications, including alterations by J.C. Scheuer in 1837 and 1838, and a rebuild by J.C. van Loo in 1862. The most recent restoration took place in 2000-2001 by Bakker & Timmenga of Leeuwarden, with Jan Jongepier as the consultant, restoring the instrument largely to its original state. The organ's disposition includes Praestant 8, Rohrfluit 8, Principael 4, and several other stops, alongside a fixed mechanical pedal coupling. This restoration effort was detailed in an article by Jan Jongepier in the 2002 edition of *Het ORGEL*, highlighting the organ's historical and musical significance in a church space that features a notably dry acoustic environment with about 1 second of reverberation time.

Stoplist/Disposition

Manuaal

Pedaal (always attached)

Praestant 8

Rohrfluit 8

Principael 4

GedacktQuint 3

Octav 2

Quintanus 1½

Sexquialter 2 st., bas/disc

Mixtuur 4 sterck

Vox Humana 8

Additional:

Sources

<https://www.organartmedia.com/de/franz-caspar-schnitger>