

Friedrich Ladegast

Naumburger Straße 27, 06667 Weißenfels, Germany



Founded/Born

1818 - 1905

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Friedrich Ladegast (1818-1905) was a prominent German organ builder in the late 19th century. Born in Hochhermsdorf, Saxony, he was one of twelve children. His family was not traditionally musical, but Ladegast received piano and organ lessons, developing a deep interest in music. He trained as an organ builder in his brother's workshop and worked in various workshops across Germany. His studies included travels to Alsace, Southern Germany, and France, where he admired the works of Gottfried Silbermann and Aristide Cavaillé-Coll.

In 1847, Ladegast established his own workshop in Weißenfels, aided by favorable economic conditions and connections with influential musicians. His breakthrough came in 1849 with an organ for St. George's Church in Geusa, followed by a significant project for the Merseburg Cathedral in 1853. The Merseburg organ, completed in 1855, was the largest in Germany at the time and brought Ladegast widespread acclaim.

Ladegast's success continued with numerous prestigious commissions, including the large organ for Leipzig's Nikolaikirche and the Schwerin Cathedral, which featured innovative technologies such as the Barkermaschine and pneumatic crescendo. His workshop in Weißenfels expanded to accommodate these large projects, incorporating both traditional and modern techniques.

Despite his success, Ladegast faced increasing competition from industrialized organ builders. His preference for traditional craftsmanship and sound eventually made it difficult to compete with firms that embraced newer technologies like the pneumatic action. Ladegast trained many apprentices who became notable organ builders themselves.

After the death of his wife in 1892, Ladegast gradually withdrew from public life, handing over his workshop to his son Oskar in 1898. He died in 1905, and his contributions to organ building were widely respected, with his organs celebrated for their technical and tonal qualities. Albert Schweitzer regarded him as the greatest organ builder after Silbermann, continuing his tradition while surpassing even Cavaillé-Coll in tonal beauty.

Sources

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

Wernigerode, St. Johannis-Kirche Wernigerode

St. Johannis-Kirche Wernigerode, Pfarrstraße, 38855 Wernigerode, Germany



Builder	F. Ladegast
Year	1885
Period/Style	Romantic
Stops	33
Keyboards	3+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Tuning	Equal at 440 Hz
Sampleset	<u>OrganArt Media</u>

Description

The 1885 Friedrich Ladegast organ in Wernigerode, Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany, represents a late example of the Ladegast three-manual organ type with mechanical action, cone chests, and Barker lever. This medium-sized instrument, with its 33 registers, has been largely preserved in its original form, except for the reconstruction of the facade pipes and the replacement of the Lieblich Gedackt in the third manual with a Vox Coelestis by Oskar Ladegast. The organ's restoration was meticulously undertaken by Orgelbau Alexander Schuke (Potsdam) between 1989 and 1991, and it underwent further general maintenance by Orgelbau Hufken from Halberstadt following interior church renovations in 2010.

The organ is noted for its versatile sound spectrum, which spans from a Baroque-like brightness to early Romantic gentle and expressive flute tones and extends to the powerful eight-foot colors characteristic of the late Romantic period. The full organ (Plenum) is notably flexible, crafted from a variety of eight-foot and four-foot ranks, allowing for a diverse build-up of sounds. Ladegast's unique positioning within the German Romantic era is highlighted by his use of classical repeating mixtures and a wide array of distinctive and idiosyncratic principal stops. The beautifully voiced flute and string stops, such as the Doppelflöte 8, Flauto amabile 8, Flauto travers 8, Gamba 8, and Salicional 8, possess a pronounced individual character, yet blend seamlessly to create numerous new timbral possibilities.

Stoplist/Disposition

Manual I	Manual II	Manual III (enclosed)	Pedal
Bordun 16	Quintatön 16	Flauto travers 8	Principal 16'
Principal 8	Geigenprincipal 8	Viola d'amore 8	Violon 16'
Gambe 8	Salicional 8	Vox celestis 8	Subbaß 16'
Doppelflöte 8	Rohrflöte 8	Octavflöte 4	Quinte 5 1/3'
Bordunalflöte 8	Flauto amabile 8		Octave 8'
Principal 4	Flauto minor 4		Baßflöte 8'
Gemshorn 4	Octave 4		Cello 8'
Rauschpfeife 2fach	Progressio 2-4fach		Octave 4'
Mixtur 4fach	Clarinetten 8' (free reed)		Posaune 16'
Cornett 3fach			
Trompete 8			

Additional: II/I, III/I, I/P, Swell pedal (III), fixed combinations, Kalkant

Sources

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

Valmiera, Sīmaņa luterāņu baznīca

Brūņinieku iela 2, LV-4201 Valmiera, Latvia



Builder F. Ladegast

Year ca. 1886

Period/Style Romantic

Stops 33

Keyboards 3+P

Keyaction tracker/mechanical

Description

Since the Soviet era, the Simon's Lutheran Church has been converted into a concert hall, and the organ's mechanics have been severely damaged due to improper maintenance. Despite its excellent quality, currently, only a weak echo of the potential sound of this instrument can be heard. In 2000, some repairs were made, but the entire instrument still awaits extensive (full) restoration.

Stoplist/Disposition

Oberwerk	Hauptwerk	Schwellwerk	Pedal
Liebl.Gedeckt 16'	Principal 16'	Gedackt 8'	Untersatz 32'
Geigenprincipal 8'	Bourdon 16'	Fl.travers 8'	Principalbass 16'
Rohrflöte 8'	Principal 8'	Viola d'amour 8'	Violon 16'
Salicional 8'	Gamba 8'	Zartflöte 4'	Subbass 16'
Prinzipal 4'	Flöte 8'		Bassflöte 8'
Fl.amabile 4'	Doppelflöte 8'		Quintbass 5 1/3'
Violine 2'	Octave 4'		Octavbass 4'
Progressiv-Harmonica 2-3 f.	Gedackt 4'		Posaune 16'
Oboe 8'	Quinte 3'		
	Octave 2'		
	Mixtur 2' 4f.		
	Cornett 3f.		

Additional: II/I, III/I, I/P, Schweller III, Calcant

Sources

http://www.orgcat.lv/valmiera_prosp.htm