

Georg Christoph Stertzling

Founded/Born

-

1660 - 1717

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Stertzling became the successor of the Eisenach organ builder Christoph Nott in 1690 and was thus responsible for the maintenance of the organs in the city. He worked closely with the church musician Johann Christoph Bach, with whom he designed his most important work, the organ of the Georgenkirche. In 1701 he traveled to Magdeburg on behalf of the city. There it was possible to get to know the works of Arp Schnitger. Sterzing's work was held in high esteem by his contemporaries, and he is mentioned in Burney's travel diaries.

His brothers Johann Christian and Johann Friedrich were also active as organ builders. One of Stertzling's students was Johann Georg Fincke.

Two of his sons, Johann Friedrich and Johann Georg, pursued the same career. The former became court organ builder in Kassel, building instruments there and in the surrounding area.

Sources

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georg_Christoph_Stertzling

Erfurt, St. Petri Büßleben



Builder	G. C. Stertzing
Year	ca. 1702
Period/Style	Baroque
Stops	28
Keyboards	2+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Tuning	1/4 Comma Meantone at 529 Hz
Sampleset	<u>Piotr Grabowski</u>

Description

The organ was initially built for the Benedictine monastery located in Erfurt on the Petersberg (Peter's hill) in 1702. It was made by Georg Christoph Stertzing from Eisenach, who was a very well-known organ builder of his times and was valued by the members of the Bach family. Three members of the family played his instruments!

During the time of secularization, the municipality of Büßleben decided to buy the organ and move it to St. Petri church in Büßleben in 1812. At that time, Büßleben was a separate city, and now it is a district of Erfurt. The St. Petri church is the oldest building of Büßleben. Its construction started in 1103. Maybe the reason why the organ survived in the almost unaltered condition is the church, which was far from the big music centres. In the era of romantic modifications, this instrument remained virtually intact, as there was also no place to make such modifications. Even for its original case, it fits the church just right, with no space left above. Despite the changes, which were made throughout its existence, a massive part of the original substance was preserved, which allowed for very accurate renovation, performed by Alexander Schuke company from Potsdam in years 1998-2002.

Erfurt-Büßleben is the only place where the heritage of Stertzing remained, and it is also the oldest instrument of this size in the Thuringia region. What is worth noting, is that the organ was selected as a model for the new "Bach organ" in the St. Thomas church in Leipzig. The goal was to recreate a sonically authentic instrument from the time of Johann Sebastian Bach.

This description is based on the texts from the website www.stertzgorgel.de (in German). There you can find more details about the organ and its history.

The manuals compass is from C-c3 and pedal from C-e1. The organ has a fascinating temperament, which sounds close to meantone temperament. It also has very high pitch $a_1 = 529$ Hz, which is almost three semitones above the standard 440 Hz pitch.

Stoplist/Disposition

Oberwerk	Brustwerk	Pedal
Quintaden 16 Fuß	Gedact 8 Fuß	Principal 16 Fuß
Principal 8 Fuß	Quintaden 8 Fuß	Sub Bass 16 Fuß
Rohrflöth 8 Fuß	Traversa 8 Fuß	Violon 16 Fuß
Quinta 6 Fuß	Principal 4 Fuß	Octav 8 Fuß
Octav 4 Fuß	Nachthorn 4 Fuß	Mixtur 4 fach
Rauschpfeif 2 fach	Octav 2 Fuß	Posaun 16 Fuß
Octav 2 Fuß	Waldflöth 2 Fuß	Cornet 2 Fuß
Sesqaltera 2 fach	Quinta 1 1/2 Fuß	
Mixtur 6 fach	Mixtur 3 fach	
Cymbel 3 fach	Vox humana 8 Fuß	
Trombetta 8 Fuß		

Additional: Coppel ins Pedal, Calcant

Sources

<https://piotrgrabowski.pl/erfurt-bussleben/>

<http://www.stertzgorgel.de/>