

Gerhard von Holy

Founded/Born

1687 - 1736

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

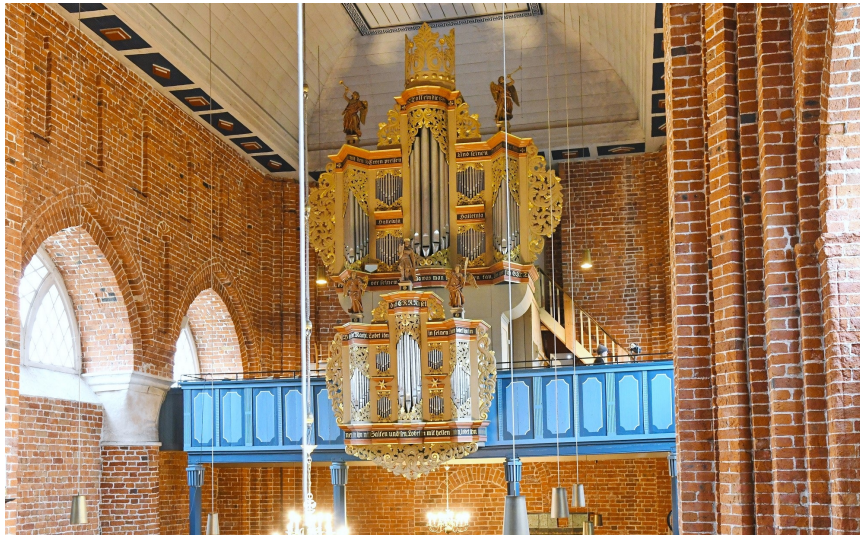
Gerhard von Holy (1687–1736) was a German organ builder, likely a student of the famous Arp Schnitger. Born in Aurich, he became a master organ builder in 1709 and established himself in East Frisia. His connection to Schnitger likely influenced his early career, including his involvement in the construction of the new organ for St. Michael's Church in Lüneburg alongside another Schnitger student, Matthias Dropa. In 1711, von Holy received an organ-building privilege for the Harlingerland region and settled in Jever in 1714. Despite his efforts to expand his work into larger cities like Amsterdam and Zwolle, he primarily remained active in the East Frisian region.

Von Holy's work extended beyond East Frisia, as he also worked in the County of Mark in Westphalia between 1723 and 1733. His career ended in Remscheid, where he passed away while engaged in organ work. Throughout his career, von Holy contributed significantly to the organ-building tradition in Northern Germany, with a focus on quality and adherence to the stylistic influences of his mentor, Schnitger.

Sources

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

Marienhafe, St. Marien



Builder	G. von Holy
Year	ca. 1713
Period/Style	Baroque
Stops	20
Keyboards	2+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical

Description

The organ of the Marienkirche in Marienhafe, built by Gerhard von Holy between 1710 and 1713, is the best-preserved two-manual Baroque organ in East Frisia. Structurally rooted in the tradition of Arp Schnitger, the organ's sound reflects the transition to the 18th century, particularly with its unique flute registers. The organ's case is designed in the style of Holy's master, Schnitger, featuring a central polygonal bass tower, flanked by pointed tenor towers, and flat fields with discant pipes, all arranged symmetrically. The Rückpositiv, located in the gallery's parapet, mirrors the design of the main organ.

Throughout its history, the organ has undergone various restorations and repairs, including significant work in the 18th and 19th centuries. A major restoration by Ahrend and Brunzema between 1966 and 1969 revived the instrument, reconstructing original elements like the Quintadena 16' and Trompete 8'. Further maintenance and repairs continued into the 21st century, addressing issues like lead corrosion and ensuring the organ's preservation in its original tonal and structural integrity. Today, the Marienhafe organ remains a vital and historically significant instrument in the region.

Stoplist/Disposition

RVG=POSITIV	MANUAL	Pedal (always attached)
ROHR=FLEVTE 8 FVS	QVINTADEN 16 FVS	
PRINCIPAAL 4 FVS	PRINCIPAAL 8 FVS	
BLOK=FLEVTE 4 FVS	GEDACT 8 FVS	
OCTAVE 2 FVS	OCTAVE 4 FVS	
QVINTE 1 1/2 FVS	SPITS=FLEVTE 4 FVS	
SIFFLEVTE 1 FVS	QVINTE 3 FVS	
SCHARF 2FACH	OCTAVE 2 FVS	
KRVMHORN 8 FVS	SPITS=FLEVTE 2 FVS	
	SESQUIALTER 2FACH	
	MIXTVVR 5-6FACH	
	CYMBEL 3FACH	
	TROMPETE 8 FVS	

Additional: I/II (shove coupler), TREMVLAN, CYMBEL=STERN

Sources

<https://nomine.net/orgel/marienhafe-ev-luth-marienkirche/>