

Georg Wilhelm Wilhelmy

Founded/Born

1748 - 1806

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Georg Wilhelm Wilhelmy (born 1748 in Weißenbach, North Hesse; died March 1806 in Oldendorf) was a German organ builder who initially worked in North Hesse and then from 1781 to 1806 in Stade. Wilhelmy, originally named Georg Wilhelm Wilhelm, was baptized on January 11, 1748. He learned the organ building trade from his older half-brother, Georg Peter Wilhelm, who became the court organ builder in Kassel in 1771. When his brother moved to Kassel in 1766, Wilhelmy took over his workshop in Weißenbach and added an "i" and later a "y" to his last name to avoid the redundancy of his first and last names.

In 1781, Wilhelmy moved to Stade with his family to repair the organ at St. Cosmae et Damiani. He became an admirer of the Baroque organ builder Arp Schnitger and influenced the organ landscape between the Elbe and Weser rivers, focusing on maintaining and caring for Schnitger's instruments. Wilhelmy was soon one of the most sought-after organ makers in the Duchies of Bremen and Oldenburg. His new constructions were exclusively in Schnitger's style, making him a bridge between the Baroque and Classicism periods. Today, he is considered a key figure in the transition from the Baroque to the Classical style, continuing to build North German Baroque organs into the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Most of Wilhelmy's instruments have been lost to fire or changes in taste over time. The possibly last surviving organ by Wilhelmy is located in the St.-Gallus-Kirche in Altenesch-Süderbrook. When Wilhelmy died during renovation work on the organ in Oldendorf in March 1806, his son, Johann Georg Wilhelm Wilhelmy, took over his workshop.

Sources

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

Altenesch, St.-Gallus-Kirche

Auf dem Strepel 11, 27809 Altenesch, Germany



Builder	G. W. Wilhelmy
Year	1795
Period/Style	Baroque
Stops	18
Keyboards	2+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Tuning	after Young, 1/6 Comma at 484 Hz

Description

The construction of a church dedicated to Saint Gallus in Süderbrook is first documented in 1299. The wooden tower was erected in 1720. The church houses several significant artifacts, including a pulpit by Ludwig Münstermann (circa 1620), a Last Judgment mural from the 15th/16th century, a confessional from the 15th century, and a roughly 800-year-old figure of Mary.

The organ in St. Gallus Church is likely the last almost completely preserved organ by the Stader master Georg Wilhelm Wilhelmy from 1794/1795. In 2007/2008, it was restored over approximately 15 months by Orgelmakerij van der Putten from the Netherlands. The organ's restoration involved carefully maintaining its original disposition and structure, making it a significant historical and musical artifact.

The original organ built by Wilhelmy had 17 registers across two manuals and a pedal. Various modifications occurred over the years: in 1861 by Johann Claussen Schmid, in 1938 by Alfred Führer, and in 1969 by Werner Bosch, each contributing to changes in the organ's configuration and mechanics. The comprehensive restoration by van der Putten aimed to return the organ to its historical state, preserving its unique characteristics and original sound.

Stoplist/Disposition

Hauptwerk	Brustwerk	Pedal
Principal 8'	Quinta Dena 8'	Subbass 16'
Quinta Dena 16'	Octav 4'	Octav 8'
Gedackt 8'	Flöte 4'	Octav 4'
Octav 4'	Sesquialtera 2f.	Posaune 16'
Quinta 3'	Dulcian 8'	Trompete 8'
Octav 2'		
Mixtur 4f.		
Trompete 8'		

Additional: Manualkoppel (I/II), Pedalkoppel (I/P), Tremulant, 3 Sperrventile

Sources

<https://nomine.net/orgel/altenesch-st-gallus/>