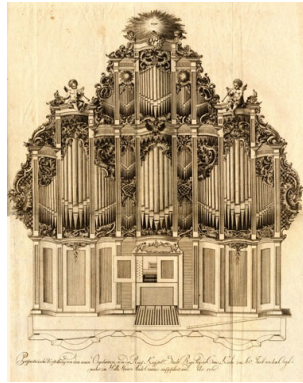


Heinrich Andreas Contius



Founded/Born

1708 - 1795

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Heinrich Andreas Contius, also Cuntius (1708 – 1795 in Valmiera, Livonia) was one of the most important organ builders in the Baltic States in the 18th century.

Contius was born in 1708 as the son of the organ builder Christoph Cuntzius in Halle an der Saale, Duchy of Magdeburg. In 1732 he is recorded as a journeyman of Joachim Wagner. He initially had his own workshop in Altenburg. From 1736/37, Contius worked in Halle and the surrounding area. From 1748, a letter of recommendation from Johann Sebastian Bach in his favour for the planned new organ building in the Konzerthalle Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach Frankfurt is known, then a letter to Contius himself. But he didn't get the contract.

In 1760, Contius moved to Riga in Courland, where he built an organ for the St. James's Cathedral, Riga. He then worked in Tallinn in Estonia and became the leading organ builder there. In 1771, he returned to Riga and in 1773 was commissioned to build a new building in the great Holy Trinity Cathedral, Liepāja (Libau), which was completed in 1779. In Valmiera, Contius opened a workshop together with Johann Andreas Stein (1752-1821) from Augsburg, who subsequently built further organs in Courland (1787 Cēsis, St. Johannis, 1788 Evele Wohlfahrtskirche).

Sources

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