

Johann Andreas Silbermann



Founded/Born

1712 - 1783

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Johann Andreas Silbermann, born on June 26, 1712, in Strasbourg, was a prominent Alsatian organ builder. He was the son of Andreas Silbermann, an esteemed organ builder originally from Saxony, and the nephew of Gottfried Silbermann, another notable organ builder in Saxony. Johann Andreas took over his father's workshop after Andreas's death in 1734, continuing the family tradition with the city's approval. Over his career, he built approximately 40 organs in various locations, including Arlesheim, Colmar, Strasbourg, Molsheim, and Gries. In addition to his work as an organ builder, he published a history of Strasbourg in 1775. He passed away at the age of 71 in Strasbourg, and his son Josias, also an organ builder, died three years later in 1786.

Silbermann's extensive handwritten legacy is preserved in Paris, Strasbourg, and Dresden and has been gradually published over the years. These writings, intended for personal use, include notes sometimes written in code and provide a detailed, often humorous glimpse into his life and work. The Silbermann Archive, housed in Paris, consists of five main volumes and additional notes. These documents were started when he was just fifteen and were often revised and supplemented over time. The archive was published in 1994 by Marc Schaefer.

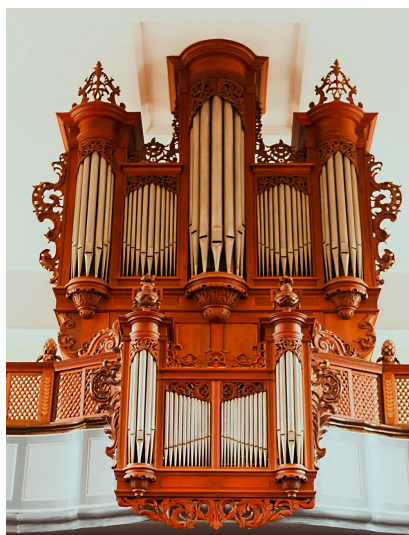
Among Silbermann's notable writings are his Strasbourg Diary and his 1741 travel diary. The Strasbourg Diary details both his father's and his own organs, enriched with additional information by his son Johann Josias. His travel diary from 1741 documents a journey through Saxony to learn about his family's origins. It includes detailed descriptions, sketches, engravings, and newspaper clippings, offering a vivid portrayal of the 18th-century musical world. This diary, containing nearly 300 pages, was acquired by the Saxon State Library in 2014 and has since been digitized and made available online.

Sources

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

Wasselonne, Église Saint-Laurent

Rue du Temple, 67310 Wasselonne, France



Builder	J. A. Silbermann
Year	1745
Period/Style	Baroque
Stops	30
Keyboards	3+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Sampleset	<u>Jeux d'Orgues</u>

Description

The organ in the Protestant Church of Wasselonne was built by Jean-André Silbermann in 1745. Originally installed in the Dominican church of Guebwiller, it was moved to Wasselonne during the French Revolution. This organ is one of the best-preserved instruments created by Silbermann, and both the instrumental part and the organ case are classified as historical monuments. Over the years, the organ underwent various modifications and restorations, most notably by Joseph Stiehr in 1823, who replaced the original bellows and made other changes. Subsequent work was carried out by Wetzels and Muhleisen, who made further alterations and added new stops.

In 1992, a significant restoration was undertaken by Gaston Kern of the Manufacture d'Orgues Alsacienne. This project aimed to restore the organ to its original condition as much as possible while accommodating some of the historical modifications. The restoration included the reconstruction of missing stops and the original bellows system, while also keeping the Stiehr reservoir as an alternative. The organ was rededicated in a ceremony in 1992, highlighting its historical and musical significance. The church also houses a choir organ, adding to its rich musical heritage.

Stoplist/Disposition

Positif de dos	Grand-orgue	Echo	Pédale
Bourdon 8'	Bourdon 16'	Bourdon 8'	Flûte 16'
Prestant 4'	Montre 8'	Prestant 4'	Flûte 8'
Flûte 4'	Bourdon 8'	Cornet 3 rgs	Prestant 4'
Nasard 2'2/3	Prestant 4'	Trompette 8'	Bombarde 16'
Doublette 2'	Nasard 2 2/3'		Trompette 8'
Tierce 1 3/5'	Doublette 2'		Clairon 4'
Fourniture 3 rgs	Tierce 1 3/5'		
Cromorne 8'	Cornet 5 rgs		
	Fourniture 3 rgs		
	Cymbale 3 rgs		
	Trompette 8'		
	Voix humaine 8'		

Additional: I/II (Tiroir), II/P

Sources

<https://www.jeuxdorgues.com/jeux-d-orgues-3-silbermann/>

<http://decouverte.orgue.free.fr/orgues/wasselon.htm>

Arlesheim, Dom

Dom, Domplatz 16, 4144 Arlesheim, Switzerland



Builder	J. A. Silbermann
Year	1761
Period/Style	Baroque
Stops	35
Keyboards	3+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Tuning	Vallotti at 415 Hz
Sampleset	<u>OrganArt Media</u>

Description

The Johann-Andreas Silbermann/Metzler organ in the Cathedral of Arlesheim, Baselland, Switzerland, originally built in 1761, stands as a significant historical and musical artifact, being the only remaining Silbermann organ in Switzerland. This organ showcases a French disposition with 36 registers across three manuals (main organ, positive back, echo) and a pedal, demonstrating German influences with a fully developed 16-foot pedal base and registers such as Sifflet 1. Later enhancements by Silbermann included expanding the echo division across the full manual range, introducing a Bassoon bass 8 in the bass division and adding stops like Prestant, Nazard, and Doublette in the treble.

In the late 1950s to early '60s, the organ underwent a critical restoration and reconstruction by the Swiss firm Metzler, which also expanded the pedal work. Further refinements continued sporadically until 2005, ensuring the organ preserved its original tonal qualities while incorporating modern functionalities. Today, this organ is celebrated as one of Johann Andreas Silbermann's most important works, capable of authentically interpreting a vast repertoire from the Baroque through to the early Romantic period. The organ gained international fame, especially after Lionel Rogg recorded Bach's complete works in the 1970s, benefitting from the cathedral's excellent acoustics, which allow up to five seconds of reverberation, enhancing its rich and nuanced sounds.

Stoplist/Disposition

Positif	Hauptwerk	Récit/Echo	Pedal
Bourdon 8	Bourdon 16	Bourdon 8	Subbass 16
Prestant 4	Montre 8	Prestant 4	Octavbass 8
Flûte 4	Bourdon 8	Nazard 2 2/3	Quinte 5 1/3
Nazard 2 2/3	Prestant 4	Doublette 2	Prestant 4
Doublette 2	Nazard 2 2/3	Tierce 1 3/5	Fourniture 3fach
Tierce 1 3/5	Doublette 2	Basson/Trompette 8	Bombarde 16
Larigot 1 1/3	Tierce 1 3/5		Trompette 8
Fourniture 3fach	Sifflet 1		Clairon 4
Cromorne 8	Fourniture 3fach		
	Cymbale 2fach		
	Trompette 8		
	Voix humaine 8		

Additional: RP-HW, HW-P, Tremulant Hauptwerk + Echo, Tremulant Positif

Sources

<https://www.organartmedia.com/de/j-a-silbermann-metzler>