

Josep Boscà

Founded/Born

1670 - 1733

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Josep Boscà i Serinyena (?-1733) was a prominent organ builder, recognized as the founder of a significant lineage of organ makers who were primarily active in Barcelona and Girona during the 17th and 18th centuries. He began his career in 1689 with the construction of organs in Cadaqués and Sant Domènec de Girona. Boscà was also known for his work in restoring organs and was involved in the construction of several notable instruments, including those in the Barcelona Cathedral (1686-1688), Montblanc, the chapel of Sant Oleguer in Barcelona, Sant Sever, and Solsona.

Towards the end of his career, Boscà built the organs of Camprodon in 1731 and Igualada in 1736, and worked on the organs at the monasteries of Montserrat and Poblet in 1732. His sons, Antoni and Josep Boscà i Llorens, continued his legacy, contributing to the construction of organs throughout Catalonia. The craftsmanship and aesthetic quality of Boscà's work are evident in the detailed woodwork and polychrome decorations, often featuring floral motifs and stylized vegetation. His work is noted for its intricate designs, including cherubs, saint portraits, and lavish gold leaf decorations, making his organs both visually and acoustically remarkable.

Sources

https://cataleg.museumusica.bcn.cat/detall/fons_instruments/H310259/

Cadaqués, Església parroquial de Santa Maria de Cadaqués

Santa Maria, 17488 Cadaqués, Spain



Builder	J. Boscà
Year	ca. 1691
Period/Style	Baroque
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Tuning	Unknown at 437.8 Hz a 20 °C Hz

Description

The organ was built between 1689 and 1691 by Josep Boscà and Serinyena and essentially remains in its original conception. The metal pipe has been repaired by Gerhard Grenzing since 1984 because it lost it during the Civil War. The fact that it has preserved so many constituent elements in addition to the box gives it sufficient entity to consider it the oldest organ in Catalonia. When in 1689 he agreed to the construction of the organ, it was agreed that he should do so in accordance with what was in the church of the convent of Sant Domènec in Girona, the first one that someone has attributed to his hands, although it seems more likely that it was Bartomeu Triay.

When the doors reveal the face of the main organ, the left one shows the worship of the shepherds and the right, the worship of the magicians; when the doors are closed, Jesus is taught with a disciple and Adam and Eve, respectively. If the curtain of the cadireta is unrolled, a recurrent scene is seen in the doors and curtains of the organs: the Annunciation.

Barcelona, Museu de la Música (Josep Boscà Organ)

Museu de la Música, Carrer de Lepant, 08013 Barcelona, Spain



Builder	J. Boscà
Year	ca. 1710
Period/Style	Baroque
Stops	6
Keyboards	1
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Sampleset	Teclats.cat

Description

This organ originated from the former convent of Santa Caterina in Barcelona and is attributed to Josep Boscà i Serinyena (?-1733), the founder of a lineage of organ builders active primarily in Barcelona and Girona between the 17th and 18th centuries. Boscà began his work on organs like those in Cadaqués and Sant Domènec de Girona in 1689. He also engaged in restoration work and constructed organs for the Barcelona Cathedral (1686-1688), Montblanc, the chapel of Sant Oleguer in Barcelona, Sant Sever, and Solsona, among others. During his later years, he built the organs for Camprodon in 1731 and Igualada in 1736, and worked at the monasteries of Montserrat and Poblet in 1732. His sons, Antoni and Josep Boscà i Llorens, continued the family tradition, constructing organs throughout Catalonia.

The organ case is made of wood and fully polychromed with floral and vegetal motifs typical of the mid-17th century Madrid school, possibly from Juan Arellano's workshop. The interior of the doors features angels holding flower bouquets and portraits of Saint Cecilia and Saint Catherine, framed with gilded vegetal designs. The facade is adorned with gilded carvings of flowers and other vegetal elements, with a mascarón and laurel crown surrounded by rocaïlle elements at the bottom. The keyboard consists of forty-five keys, from C1 to C6, with naturals plated with boxwood and sharps stained dark. The key fronts are decorated with concentric semicircles, and it has a short octave range: C - F - D - G - E - A - B \flat - B - C.

The organ operates with suspended mechanics, has no pedalboard, and the bellows are integrated inside, driven by pulleys and ropes. It is tuned to A at 440 Hz. The stops include full registers: an 8' flute (C1-D#2), a fixed register that always sounds; pipes located on the facade from E2; 4' octave, 2' octave, 1 1/3' nineteenth, 1' twenty-second, 2/3' twenty-sixth. The facade has nineteen pipes from

E2 in the center. The order of the stops on the windchest includes thirteen wooden pipes of the 8' flute (C2-D#2) without a register, 26th, 22nd, nineteenth, fifteenth, octave (wooden basses), and 8' facade flute. The windchest is mitre-shaped with the first C at the center, and various internal parts are marked with an "R" under a crowned and crossed tiara, branded with a hot iron. The organ closely resembles one in the Barcelona Cathedral, built by Josep's son, Antoni Boscà, in 1712.

Stoplist/Disposition

Manual

Flautat (always on)

Octava

Quinzena

Dinovenà

Vintidosena

Vintisisena

Additional: Tiratutti

Sources

<https://www.atmos.cat/perl?num=1679785849>

https://cataleg.museumusica.bcn.cat/detall/fons_instruments/H310259/

Palma de Mallorca, Convent de Nostra Senyora de la Mercè

la Mercè , Palma de Mallorca, Spain



Builder	J. Boscà
Year	ca. 1718
Period/Style	Baroque
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Tuning	Unknown

Talarn, Església parroquial de Sant Martí de Tours

Sant Martí , 25630 Talarn, Spain



Builder	J. Boscà
Year	ca. 1746
Period/Style	Neo-Baroque
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Tuning	Unknown

Description

It was built in 1746 by the Barcelona organist Josep Boscà de Seringena. It has been preserved intact to this day, except for the outer hornwork, which was reconstructed by the organist Gerhard Grenzing, from the few preserved samples, when the organ was completely restored in 1975.

Igualada , Basílica de Santa Maria

Basílica de Santa Maria d'Igualada , 08700 Igualada , Spain



Builder	J. Boscà
Year	1758
Period/Style	Baroque
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Tuning	Unknown

Barcelona, Basílica parroquial de Santa Maria del Mar

Basílica de Santa Maria del Mar, Barcelona, Spain



Builder

J. Boscà

Year

ca. 1800

Period/Style

Renaissance

Keyaction

tracker/mechanical

Tuning

1/5 Comma Meantone at 412.0 Hz a 20 °C Hz