

# Tobias Heinrich Gottfried Trost

**Founded/Born**

1680 - 1759

**Closed/Death**

**Still active?**

no

## Description

Tobias Heinrich Gottfried Trost (c. 1680 – August 12, 1759, in Altenburg) is considered the most significant Thuringian organ builder, highly esteemed by Johann Sebastian Bach. His largely preserved instruments in the Waltershausen Town Church (1722–1730) and the Altenburg Castle Church (1735–1739) are among the most famous Baroque organs in Central Europe.

Trost was the son of organ builder Johann Tobias Gottfried Trost and Anna Dorothea Thüm (died 1703). He learned organ building from his father, with their collaborative works documented between 1697 and 1706. Trost married Susanna Catharina Schweinefleisch on November 3, 1704, and achieved master status before 1711. He moved to Altenburg in 1722 after his father's death, where he became the "court organ builder" following a dispute over organ building privileges with Johann Jacob Donati.

Trost completed 21 new organs and five rebuilds. His most notable works include the Waltershausen Town Church organ, the largest Baroque organ in Thuringia, and the Altenburg Castle Church organ. The Altenburg organ was highly praised for its brilliance, power, and refined intonation by Wilhelm Stade in 1880. Trost's experimental approach differed from the conventional styles of contemporaries like Gottfried Silbermann. He preferred colorful tones, a strong flute chorus, and minimal use of mixed voices and reed stops.

Despite his innovative craftsmanship, Trost faced financial difficulties and extended construction times, frustrating his clients. For example, the Waltershausen organ took eight years to complete instead of the agreed two and a half. This led to satirical verses about him from the local council. Gottfried Silbermann's evaluation of Trost's work acknowledged his dedication but noted the lack of profitability. The Altenburg organ has since become a popular concert instrument, attracting many organists since its completion in 1739.

Trost faced financial hardships in the 1730s, borrowing money from relatives and acquaintances. His health declined from 1754, suffering a stroke in 1756, and he died in 1759 after a prolonged illness. Despite the challenges, his contributions to organ building have left a lasting legacy in the history of Baroque music.

## Sources

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tobias\\_Heinrich\\_Gottfried\\_Trost](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tobias_Heinrich_Gottfried_Trost)

# Waltershausen, Stadtkirche Zur Gotteshilfe

Markt, 99880 Waltershausen, Germany



<b>Builder</b>	T. H. G. Trost
<b>Year</b>	1730
<b>Period/Style</b>	Baroque
<b>Stops</b>	53
<b>Keyboards</b>	3+P
<b>Keyaction</b>	tracker/mechanical
<b>Tuning</b>	1/5 Comma Meantone at 466.8 Hz
<b>Sampleset</b>	<u><a href="#">OrganArt Media</a></u>

## Description

The Trost organ in Waltershausen, with its 47 stops and 6 pedal transmissions, is the largest Baroque organ in Thuringia. Largely preserved in its original state from 1730 (with about 70% of the pipes originating from Trost himself), it is an exceptionally valuable reference instrument for performing the organ works of Bach and his contemporaries. This organ is considered to closely match Bach's sonic ideals.

The organ was built between 1724 and 1730 by Tobias Heinrich Gottfried Trost, but due to several changes in the organ's design during construction and significant conflicts between Trost and the patrons, it was possibly completed around 1755 by organ builder Johann Heinrich Ruppert. The instrument survived the centuries without major alterations and was restored to its 1730 condition by Orgelbau Waltershausen from 1994 to 1998.

As a typical instrument of the Thuringian organ-building tradition, it features characteristic stops like the Violonbass in the pedal, Terzmixturen, Sesquialtera, and Viola di Gamba. These stops, along with a wealth of well-blending registers, allow for an endless array of tonal combinations, paving the way for the German Romantic organ of the following century. Trost's extraordinary and innovative concepts with unusual and extreme pipe scales for stops like the Geigenprincipal, Flauto traverse, and Vagarr, as well as "lovely" stops like Flauto dolce, Flöte dupla, and Nachthorn, which Bach greatly valued, were precursors of the so-called "galant style."

The organ case, designed by Johann Eberhard Strassburger, the architect of the Anna Amalia Library in Weimar, is of exceptional beauty and elegance, with the original manuals still preserved.

While it is not definitively known, it is believed that Bach himself played this instrument. It is recorded that Bach highly appreciated the sound and craftsmanship of Trost's organs during his 1739 visit to Altenburg. The church's architecture, with its circular design and surrounding galleries on multiple levels, designed by Wolf Christoph Zorn von Plobsheim, was a precursor to the Dresden Frauenkirche. The interior's unique combination of altar, pulpit, and organ reflects the Lutheran ideal of unity between music and preaching, a concept also seen in the Frauenkirche Dresden.

## Stoplist/Disposition

Hauptwerk	Brustwerk	Oberwerk	Pedal
Portun-Untersatz 16	Gedackt 8	Flöte Dupla 8	Groß-Principal 16
Groß Qvintadena 16	Nachthorn 8	Vagarr 8	Sub-Bass 16
Principal 8	Principal 4	Flöte travers 8	Violon-Bass 16
Gemshorn 8	Flöte douce 4	liebl. Principal 4	Octaven-Bass 8
Viol d' Gambe 8	Nachthorn 4	Spitzflöte 4	Celinder-Qvinta 6
Portun 8	Gemshorn 4	Gedackt-Qvinta 3	Posaunen-Bass 32
Qvintadena 8	Spitz-Qvinta 3	Wald-Flöte 2	Posaunen-Bass 16
Unda maris 8	Nassad-Qvinta 3	Hohl-Flöte 8	Trompetten-Bass 8
Octava 4	Octava 2	Vox humana 8	Qvintadenen-Bass 16 (Trans)
Salcional 4	Sesqvaltera 2 fach	Geigenprincipal 4	Viol d' Gamben-Bass 8 (Trans)
Röhr-Flöta 4	Mixtura 4 fach		Portun-Bass 8 (Trans)
Celinder-Qvinta 3	Hautbous 8		Super-Octava 4 (Trans)
Super-Octava 2			Röhr-Flöten-Bass 4 (Trans)
Sesqvaltera 2 fach			Mixtur-Baß 6fach (Trans)
Mixtura 8 fach			
Fagott 16			
Trompetta 8			

**Additional:** OW-HW, BW-HW, HW-P, BW-P, Tremulant zur Vox humana, Tremulant zum gesamten Werck, 2 Cymbelsterne (C and G), Calcant, Sperrventile

## Sources

<https://www.organartmedia.com/de/heinrich-gottfried-trost#geschichtliches>