

# Johann Heinrich Mundt

**Founded/Born**

1632 - 1691

**Closed/Death**

**Still active?**

no

## Description

Johann Heinrich Mundt (\* November 15, 1632, in Cologne; † March 18, 1691, in Prague) was a Czech organ builder of German origin.

Mundt came to Prague before 1668 to learn organ building from Hieronymus Artmann. His first documented work was the repair of the organ at St. Thomas Church in Prague's Lesser Town in 1668, in collaboration with Matthäus Köhler (also Matthäus Kehler) from Zwittau. His first new organ construction took place at the Cistercian monastery church in Osek from 1668 to 1670.

From there, he applied for the organ construction project at Prague's Týn Church (2 manuals, 29 registers). In 1670, he was awarded the contract and built the organ by 1673. This instrument, the largest built by Mundt and still preserved today, brought him fame during its construction phase. Additionally, he was granted Prague citizenship in this context. However, during the organ's acceptance on April 28, 1673, there were objections from an apparently "conservative examination committee." Consequently, and due to a fire in the church in 1672, Mundt made sound-related improvements to the organ.

Other organs built by Mundt include those at the Cistercian church of Hohenfurth (2 manuals, 27 registers) in 1679 and the St. Nicholas Church in Prague's Old Town (2 manuals, 16 registers).

Mundt's work combines Bohemian and Italian elements of organ building. He is considered one of the most prominent organ builders of the 17th century in Bohemia. His organs serve as a link between the organ styles of the 15th and 16th centuries and the 18th century, the classical Baroque organ. The dominant sound groups of his organs are the principal and flute stops. Often, his organ designs include cymbal stars. The pedal division in Mundt's organs is typically designed as a separate sound group. In the facade design, Mundt favored a flat arrangement of pipes and ornaments.

## Sources

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johann\\_Heinrich\\_Mundt](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johann_Heinrich_Mundt)

## Prague, Our Lady before Tyn



<b>Builder</b>	J. H. Mundt
<b>Year</b>	ca. 1673
<b>Period/Style</b>	Baroque
<b>Stops</b>	29
<b>Keyboards</b>	2+P
<b>Keyaction</b>	tracker/mechanical
<b>Sampleset</b>	<u>Sonus Paradisi</u>

### Description

Prague is said to be "Mater urbium" (the Mother of towns). The large gothic church of Our Lady before Týn in the very centre of the city was an eye-witness to all the key adventures of the Czech nation since these events usually took place at the neighboring Old-Town square. The sanctuary is known especially for its Hussite and Utraquist past. Today, many tourists visit the place to find the tomb of Tycho de Brahe. The church is famous also due to its 17th century organ. The instrument has to be called "Mater organorum". Indeed, the masterpiece of Johann Heinrich Mundt (1632-1691) finished in 1673 for the church of Our Lady before Týn is generally considered to be the THE organ. It is the most typical representative of the Czech organ building. Also, it is one of the best preserved instruments from the 17th century in Europe. If you think of a historical Czech organ, it is the first instrument which comes immediately to your mind. The organ was excellently restored in 1998-2000 by Klais (Bonn) thanks to a massive support of the German foundation (Zukunftsfonds). I can say without any exaggeration that it is the dream of every Czech organist to be allowed to touch this instrument.

Detailed essays on the history of the organ and its restoration are available, based on the account of prof. Hans-Wolfgang Theobald who was the leading figure of the restoration process.

## Stoplist/Disposition

Hauptwerk	Rückpositiv	Pedal
Bourdonflauta 16'	Copula major 8'	Subbass gedeckt 16'
Principal 8'	Principal 4'	Subbass offen 16'
Flauta dulcis 8'	Flauta amabilis 4'	Octavbass 8'
Quintatöne 8'	Octava 2'	Superoctavbass 4'
Salicional 8'	Quinta 1 1/2'	Quintbass 6'
Copula major 8'	Quintadecima 9+ (=1')	Mixtur 2-4fach
Copula minor 4'	Mixtura 3fach	Posaunbass 8'
Octava 4'	Rauschquint 2fach	
Quinta major 3'		
Superoctava 2'		
Quinta minor 1 1/2'		
Sedecima 1'		
Mixtura 1' 6fach		
Cembalo 4fach		

**Additional:** RP - HW, RP - HW, Cimbelstern - left and right, Calcantenglocke

## Sources

<https://www.sonusparadisi.cz/en/organs/czech/prague-baroque-v-2.html>