

Karl Joseph Riepp



Founded/Born

1710 - 1775

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Karl Joseph Riepp, born on January 24, 1710, in Eldern near Ottobeuren, was a distinguished German organ builder whose expertise earned him French citizenship as a royally privileged organ builder. Trained alongside his brother Rupert under Jörg Hofer in Ottobeuren, Karl Joseph ventured to Strasbourg aiming to work with Andreas Silbermann but ended up under Georg Friedrich Merckel. Despite this, he keenly absorbed Silbermann's techniques and blended them with his own Swabian influences to become a sought-after organ builder. By 1742, he had settled in Dijon, France, where, together with Rupert, he built his most significant organ for St. Bénigne's Cathedral, establishing his reputation as a master craftsman capable of competing with any French contemporaries.

His prowess was further acknowledged when he was tasked with the organ construction for Ste. Chapelle du Roy in Dijon, a prestigious assignment indicating his status as one of Burgundy's and the kingdom's finest organ builders. In January 1747, King Louis XV granted Karl Joseph and his brother Rupert French citizenship with the mandate to remain permanent residents as "Facteurs d'orgues du Roy." In addition to his organ building, Karl Joseph engaged in trading wine from his vineyards in Burgundy, which added to his wealth and allowed him to export grapevines to Salem. His instruments epitomize the classic French organ style, demonstrating his profound understanding of acoustics and meticulous craftsmanship in the construction and tuning of stops, particularly the reed stops and mixtures, which were crucial for dynamic musical expression. His legacy includes training influential builders like Joseph Ludwig Weber and Johann Nepomuk Holzhey, who continued to integrate French and Swabian sound elements in their work.

Sources

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

Ottobeuren, Basilika St. Alexander und Theodor (Holy Spirit Organ)

Basilika St. Alexander und Theodor, Luitpoldstraße, 87724 Ottobeuren, Germany



Builder	K. J. Riepp
Year	ca. 1766
Period/Style	Baroque
Stops	27
Keyboards	2+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Sampleset	<u>OrganArt Media</u>

Description

The smaller Holy Spirit Organ and the larger Trinity Organ at the Benedictine Abbey of Ottobeuren in Unterallgäu, founded in 764, are the only two almost completely original instruments remaining from Karl Joseph Riepp. Celebrated for their craftsmanship, distinctive architecture, and exceptional sound, these organs are a significant part of the international organ heritage. They skillfully blend French and South German sound ideals, regarded as timeless treasures of organ music. The smaller Rococo Holy Spirit Organ leans more towards South German stylistic elements, whereas the larger Trinity Organ exhibits characteristics typical of French organs.

Riepp's approach to organ building is noted for its rich and full principal tones, deep mixtures, strong reed pipes with full-length resonators, wide-scale aliquots, and melodious flutes. The registers of these organs are particularly renowned for their excellent blending properties. The Rococo basilica in which these organs are housed boasts a reverberation time of up to seven seconds, enhancing their majestic sound. This architectural and acoustic environment allows Riepp's craftsmanship to resonate beautifully, preserving a critical piece of musical artistry for both historical appreciation and contemporary enjoyment.

Stoplist/Disposition

Hauptwerk	Brüstungs-Positiv	Pedal
Copel 16	Copel 8	Principal 16
Principal 8	Flauta 8	Copel 16
Copel 8	Prestant 4	Flauta 8
Flauta 8	Flet 4	Flet 4
Gamba 8	Quint 3	Quint 3
Salicet 8	Doublet 2	Fagot 8
Octav 4	Mixtur 4f	
Flet 4	Cornet 3f	
Doublet 2	Schalmey 8	
Mixtur 4f		
Cimbal 3f		
Cromorn 8		

Additional: POS-HW (shove coupler), Tremolo dous (II)

Sources

<https://www.organartmedia.com/de/karl-joseph-riepp>

Ottobeuren, Basilika St. Alexander und Theodor (Trinity Organ)

Basilika St. Alexander und Theodor, Luitpoldstraße, 87724 Ottobeuren, Germany



Builder	K. J. Riepp
Year	1766
Period/Style	Baroque
Stops	57
Keyboards	4+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Sampleset	<u>OrganArt Media</u>

Description

The smaller Holy Spirit Organ and the larger Trinity Organ at the Benedictine Abbey of Ottobeuren in Unterallgäu, founded in 764, are the only two nearly completely preserved original instruments crafted by Karl Joseph Riepp. These organs are treasured parts of the international organ heritage due to their construction, craftsmanship, unique architecture, and sound. They ingeniously merge French and South German sound ideals and are considered timeless treasures of organ music. The smaller Rococo-style Holy Spirit Organ is oriented towards South German traditions, while the larger Trinity Organ displays a characteristically French style.

Riepp's method of organ building is distinguished by its warm, full foundational tones, deep mixtures, powerful reed stops with full-length resonators, wide-scaled aliquots, and melodious flutes, with registers that blend exceptionally well. This masterful blending of styles and sounds makes these organs significant historical and cultural artifacts. Peter Williams describes the Trinity Organ as a "beautiful flower sown in France but cultivated in Germany," praising its sensual splendor and claiming it possibly represents the best Organo Pleno of its time.

The Rococo basilica housing these organs features an impressive reverberation time of up to six seconds in the choir area, enhancing the auditory experience and allowing the full richness of Riepp's organs to resonate beautifully within the space. These instruments not only demonstrate the technical and artistic heights of organ building of their time but also continue to be a source of musical and historical enrichment.

Stoplist/Disposition

Brüstungs-Positiv	Hauptwerk	Récit	Echo	Pedal
Princip 16	Copel 16	Cornet Resi	Copel 8	Princip 16
Copel 8	Princip 8	Copel 8	Flet 4	Copel 16
Flauta 8	Copel 8	Flet 4	Quint 3	Octav 8
Octav 4	Flauta 8	Quint 3	Quart 2	Gamb 8
Flet 4	Gamba 8	Quart 2	Tertz 1 1/2	Quint 6
Gamba 4	Salicet 8	Tertz 1 1/2	Larigot	Flet 4
Nazard 3	Prestant 4	Hoboi 8	Tertz	Mixtur
Quart 2	Flet 4		Hoboi 8	Bomba 16
Tertz 1 1/2	Tertz 3			Trompet 8
Quint 1 1/2	Quint 3			Trompet 4
Fornit	Waldflet 2			
Trompet 8	Tertz 1 1/2			
Cromor 8	Cornet			
Voxho 8	Mixtur			
Clairon 4	Cimbal			
	Trompet 8			
	Clairon 4			

Additional: POS-HW (shove coupler), Tremolo I dous, Tremolo dous II, III, IV, Tremolo forte I-IV

Sources

<https://www.organartmedia.com/de/karl-joseph-riepp-3>