

Wurlitzer

908 Niagara Falls Blvd., NY 14120 North Tonawanda, United States of America

Founded/Born

1853 - 1985

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

The Rudolph Wurlitzer Company, known as Wurlitzer, was an American firm that produced musical instruments, barrel organs, and jukeboxes from 1853 to 1985. Founded by Franz Rudolph Wurlitzer, who emigrated from Germany in 1853, the company initially focused on retail and later began manufacturing musical instruments in 1861. In 1872, Rudolph's brother Anton joined the business, and by 1890 it became the Rudolph Wurlitzer Company. The firm grew rapidly, moving to a six-story building in 1906 after a fire destroyed the original premises. A significant acquisition in 1910 of the Hope-Jones Organ Company led Wurlitzer to become a leading producer of theater organs. Upon Rudolph Wurlitzer's death in 1914, his sons took over, continuing the company's growth.

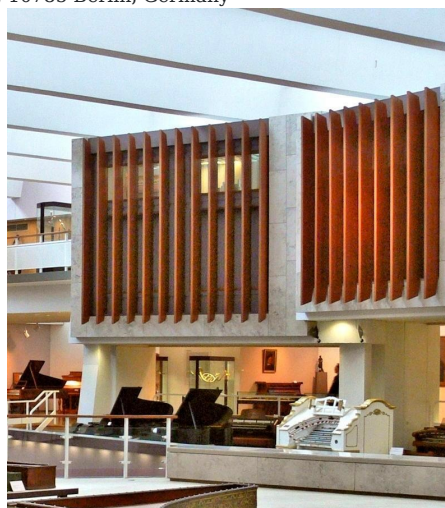
In 1933, Fanny Wurlitzer, Rudolph's son, acquired a patented jukebox mechanism, leading to the successful debut of the Debutante jukebox. Paul M. Fuller, the chief designer from 1935 to 1947, crafted iconic models in a colorful, chrome-laden Art Deco style, making Wurlitzer the market leader by 1936. The Wurlitzer 1015 bubbler, introduced in 1946, became the most famous jukebox with 56,242 units sold. The company also ventured into electric pianos in 1955 and employed 2,000 people by 1956. However, after producing 750,000 jukeboxes, Wurlitzer ceased their production in 1974. In 1985, the company was acquired by Baldwin Piano Company, which struggled and was later bought by Gibson in 2001. The German Wurlitzer GmbH, holding the jukebox rights, faced multiple insolvencies and was liquidated in 2016. Since December 2020, the Wurlitzer brand is back with the Wurlitzer family, which has resumed jukebox production from 2024.

Sources

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

Berlin, Musikinstrumentenmuseum (Wurlitzer Organ)

Musikinstrumenten-Museum, Tiergartenstraße 1, 10785 Berlin, Germany



Builder	Wurlitzer
Year	ca. 1929
Period/Style	Romantic
Stops	157
Keyboards	4+P
Keyaction	electrical
Tuning	Equal

Description

The organ was constructed in 1929 by the Rudolph Wurlitzer Company, bearing the opus number 2064. The instrument was custom-built for Werner Ferdinand von Siemens and was originally installed in the Siemens Concert Hall in Berlin. After being damaged in a fire in 1963, the organ was restored and became property of the State Institute for Music Research in 1982. After a further restoration by the Walcker Company in 1984, it was installed in the exhibition hall. The organ is a classic example of a cinema organ and contains 129 pipe registers drawn from 16 ranks of pipes, using the multiplex principle. Moreover, this particular instrument is the largest Wurlitzer organ in Europe!

Stoplist/Disposition

I Accompaniment	II Great	III Orchestral	IV Solo	Pedal
Contra Viol 16'	Diaphone 16'	Diaphone 16'	Contra Gamba 16'	Diaphone 16'
Burdon 16'	Contra Gamba 16'	Contra Gamba 16'	Tibia clausa 16'	Contra Gamba 16'
Lieblich Burdon 16'	Contra Viol 16'	Tibia clausa 16'	Diaphonic Diapason 8'	Tibia clausa 16'
Diaphonic Diapason 8'	String 16'	Bourdon 16'	Gamba 8'	Burdon 16'
Tibia clausa 8'	Tibia clausa 16'	Diaphonic Diapason 8'	String 8'	Lieblich Burdon 16'
Flute 8'	Burdon 16'	Tibia clausa 8'	String celeste 8'	Octave 8'
Lieblich Gedackt 8'	Lieblich Bourdon 16'	Flute 8'	Quintadena 8'	Tibia clausa 8'
Quintadena 8'	Diaphonic Diapason 8'	Lieblich Gedackt 8'	Octave 4'	Flute 8'
Gamba 8'	Flute 8'	Quintadena 8'	Piccolo 4'	Lieblich Gedackt 8'
Viol d'orchestre 8'	Tibia clausa 8'	Gamba 8'	Gambette 4'	Gamba 8'
Viol celeste 8'	Lieblich Gedackt 8'	Viol d'orchestre 8'	Ophicleide 16'	String 8'

String 8'	Gamba 8'	Viol celeste 8'	Trumpet 8'	String celeste 8'
String celeste 8'	Viol d'orchestre 8'	String 8'	Tuba Horn 8'	Flute 4'
Octave 4'	Viol celeste 8'	String celeste 8'	Clarinet 8'	Ophicleide 16'
Flute 4'	String 8'	Octave 4'	Oboe Horn 8'	Tuba Horn 8'
Tibia 4'	String celeste 8'	Piccolo 4'	Orchestral Oboe 8'	Clarinet 8'
Piccolo 4'	Octave 4'	Flute 4'	Clairon 4'	Nebenregister
Viol d'orchestre 4'	Flute 4'	Lieblich Flute 4'		Tympani
Viol Celeste 4'	Lieblich Flute 4'	Gambette 4'		Tympani (Roll)
Twelfth 22/3'	Piccolo 4'	Viol d'orchestre 4'		Bass Drum
Piccolo 1st 2'	Viol celeste 4'	Viol celeste 4'		Snare Drum
Piccolo 2nd 2'	Viol d'orchestre 4'	Tibia 2'		Kettle Drum
Vox humana 16'	Twelfth 1st 22/3'	Piccolo 1st 2'		Crash Cymbal
Tuba Horn 8'	Twelfth 2nd 22/3'	Piccolo 2nd 2'		Gong
Oboe Horn 8'	Piccolo 1st 2'	Ophicleide 16'		
Orchestral Oboe 8'	Piccolo 2nd 2'	Trumpet 8'		
Clarinet 8'	Tierce 13/5'	Tuba Horn 8'		
Vox humana 8'	Ophicleide 16'	Clarinet 8'		
Vox humana 4'	Clarinet 16'	Oboe Horn 8'		
Marimba	Vox humana 16'	Orchestral Oboe 8'		
Harp	Trumpet 8'	Clairon 4'		
Chrysoglott	Tuba Horn 8'	Xylophone		
Snare Drum	Orchestral Oboe 8'	Cathedral Chimes		
Tambourine	Clarinet 8'	Glockenspiel		
Castanets	Vox humana 8'	Bells		
Chinese Block	Clairon 4'			
Sand Block	Marimba 8'			
Tom Tom	Xylophone			
	Chrysoglott			
	Cathedral Chimes			
	Glockenspiel			
	Harp			
	Sleigh Bells			

Additional: IV/I, IV/II, I/P, II/P, III/P, IV/P, Sub II/II, Super II/II

Sources

[https://organindex.de/index.php?title=Berlin/Tiergarten,_Musikinstrumentenmuseum_\(Wurlitzer-Orgel\)](https://organindex.de/index.php?title=Berlin/Tiergarten,_Musikinstrumentenmuseum_(Wurlitzer-Orgel))