

# Alexander Schuke Potsdam

Otto-Lilienthal-Straße 33, 14542 Werder (Havel), Germany



**Founded/Born**

1820 - ???

**Closed/Death**

**Still active?**

yes

**Email**

[mail@schuke.de](mailto:mail@schuke.de)

**Webpage**

<https://www.schuke.de/>

## Description

Alexander Schuke Potsdam Orgelbau GmbH is a German organ-building company founded in 1820 in Potsdam.

The organ builder Gottlieb Heise founded the company in 1820 in Potsdam, establishing a workshop in the courtyard of a residential complex in the Dutch Quarter. In 1848, his pupil Carl Ludwig Gesell took over the company, initially with Gustav Schulz, who soon became independent. From 1868, Carl Eduard Gesell led the company. When he died childless in 1894, Alexander Schuke bought the company and made it one of the most well-known organ-building firms in Brandenburg. After his death in 1933, his sons Karl Ludwig Schuke and Hans-Joachim Schuke jointly led the company.

Hans-Joachim Schuke was captured by the Soviets during World War II. In 1950, the brothers decided to establish a second workshop in Berlin, anticipating economic constraints in post-war Germany. Hans-Joachim continued running the Potsdam firm, which remained privately owned. Karl Schuke moved to Berlin in 1953 and separated the Berlin workshop from the Potsdam operation, continuing it as Karl Schuke Berliner Orgelbauwerkstatt GmbH. In 1972, the company in the DDR was nationalized and operated as VEB Potsdamer Schuke-Orgelbau. Organ master Matthias Schuke, who had joined in 1974, successfully reprivatized the company in 1990 during the economic and political changes and became its owner and managing director. In January 2004, the company moved to a new workshop at Otto-Lilienthal-Straße 33 in the Havelauen in Werder (Havel).

Schuke received important commissions for new organs for the Cathedral of Erfurt, the Cathedral of Magdeburg, the Cathedral of Kaliningrad, and the Cathedral of Zamora in Mexico. In the 20th century, the company became one of the leading German organ-building firms with a worldwide reputation.

Due to difficulties delivering new organs to Ukraine and Russia and payment defaults from these countries due to economic sanctions against Russia, the company filed for bankruptcy in November 2014. In solidarity with the traditional organ-building company, some customers brought forward

planned orders. A Chinese art lover purchased the completed instrument for a Russian luxury hotel and additionally ordered a smaller organ for training music students in Shanghai. In January 2017, the Potsdam District Court unanimously accepted the insolvency plan, saving the company. At the end of October 2017, Matthias Schuke announced the gradual transfer of the company to his sons Johannes (\*1985) and Michael (\*1989). In October 2018, Johannes and Michael Schuke took over the management of the traditional company in the fourth generation. In November 2018, they received a major contract to restore and expand the organ in St. Katharinen Church in Brandenburg an der Havel, which Schuke had already rebuilt in 1936.

Alexander Schuke initially built the cone chest, which he had learned from his mentor Eduard Gesell. He combined this technique with tubular pneumatics in solid construction. The company soon developed into one of the leading organ-building firms in Brandenburg alongside Dinse and Sauer. After World War I, electric action was standardly introduced. Following the organ reform movements led by Albert Schweitzer and Hans Henny Jahnn, Schuke returned to the principles of classical organ building and reinstated mechanical slider chests. By the late 1950s, the first restorations of historical instruments were undertaken. The company is known for significant restorations, such as the Scherer organ in Tangermünde (1624) and the Wagner organs in Brandenburg an der Havel (1725) and Angermünde (1744).

In collaboration with Schuke, the University of Potsdam develops measurement methods to determine the authentic sound of historical organ pipes.

Musicologists appreciate the "romantic and symphonic sound" of Schuke organs, attributed to the careful selection and processing of pipe materials in their own workshop. Unlike the typical development in organ building, the Schukes use lead and tin along with trace elements in the raw materials, resulting in high stability and durability.

The opus list includes 630 new organs built between 1895 and 2015, over 60 restorations (as of the end of 2017), whose proportion has significantly increased since the late 1990s, as well as numerous rebuilds and expansions of existing works.

## **Sources**

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander\\_Schuke\\_Potsdam\\_Orgelbau](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Schuke_Potsdam_Orgelbau)

# Москва, Tchaikovsky-Conservatory (Small Hall)

Середній Кисловський провулок, 45, 125009 Москва, Russia



**Builder** A. Schuke Potsdam

**Year** ca. 1959

**Period/Style** Neo-Baroque

**Stops** 27

**Keyboards** 2+P

**Keyaction** tracker/mechanical

## Description

The organ was constructed by Hans Joachim Schuke in the year 1959.

## Stoplist/Disposition

I Hauptwerk	II Oberwerk	Pedal
Quintadena 16'	Gedackt 8'	Subbass 16'
Principal 8'	Principal 4'	Oktave 8'
Rohrflöte 8'	Nachthorn 4'	Bassflöte 8'
Oktave 4'	Oktave 2'	Oktave 4'
Spitzflöte 4'	Terz 13/5'	Mixtur V
Nassat 22/3'	Quinte 11/3'	Posaune 16'
Nachthorn 2'	Sifflöte 1'	Trompete 8'
Mixtur V	Scharff IV	
Cymbel III	Krummhorn 8'	
Trompete 8'	Glockenspiel (G-fis <sup>2</sup> )	

**Additional:** II/I, I/P, II/P, Tremolo I Hauptwerk

## Sources

[https://organindex.de/index.php?title=Moskau,\\_Tschaikowsky-Konservatorium\\_\(kleiner\\_Saal\)](https://organindex.de/index.php?title=Moskau,_Tschaikowsky-Konservatorium_(kleiner_Saal))

# Erfurt, Predigerkirche

Predigerstraße 4, 99084 Erfurt, Germany



<b>Builder</b>	A. Schuke Potsdam
<b>Year</b>	ca. 1977
<b>Period/Style</b>	Neo-Baroque
<b>Stops</b>	56
<b>Keyboards</b>	3+P
<b>Keyaction</b>	tracker/mechanical
<b>Sampleset</b>	<u>Piotr Grabowski</u>

## Description

Erfurt is the capital city of the Thuringia region in Germany. The Predigerkirche (Preachers' Church), located in the city centre, is one of the oldest churches in the city, built in the 14th century in gothic style. The magnificent organ case dates back to 1648, when Ludwig Compenius built a Baroque organ. It is worth noting that in the years between 1678 and 1690 Johann Pachelbel, the famous Baroque composer, was the organist in the Predigerkirche. The organ had two manuals and a pedal but was quite prone to failures, resulting in several rebuilds of the instrument.

While retaining the beautiful casework, the interior was replaced by a new organ in around 1898, built by Walcker with tubular action and kept in a romantic aesthetic. In the 1950s its condition continued to get gradually worse, so the idea of building a new organ surfaced. In the end a new organ was built by Schuke from Potsdam (Germany) in 1977. It was conceived in a neo-baroque style, corresponding much better with the phenomenal baroque case.

The organ has 4 divisions: Hauptwerk, Schwellwerk, Positiv and Pedal. We can find the Hauptwerk in the upper floor of the main organ case. Its principal chorus (Plenum) builds up from a Principal 16', with two Quinte stops (5 1/3' and 2 2/3') and is crowned with two mixtures: Groß Mixtur at 2' pitch and Klein Mixtur at 1 1/3' pitch. With two Trompete stops at 16' and 8', the Hauptwerk makes for a solid foundation of the organ.

Looking at the Schwellwerk division, which is the largest division of the organ, we find a large variety of stops. It is located in the main organ case at the bottom. The box shutters (it is enclosed) are covered by the Positiv section, so they're not visible from the nave. With its unusually high amount of foundation stops for that time, it is possible to create a warm and full tone, while still not

overshadowing its neo baroque spirit. Typical for that time is the stop Oberton 2 fach, which consists of a seventh and a third, allowing for more modern and experimental sounds. Two reed stops complete the division: Dulcian 16' and Oboe 8', which can give the division some nice and rustic sound when used appropriately.

The Positiv division isn't a Rückpositiv division as you may think judging from its case. Originally the console was built into the main organ case (in the place of the current Schwellwerk). As the current console is located below the organ case on a lower level, the former Rückpositiv becomes a "regular" Positiv. Usually, a Rückpositiv section is controlled by the lowest keyboard because of mechanical advantages (easier to build with mechanical action). Here it is operated by the highest manual. Its stoplist, as in most baroque organs, reflects the Hauptwerk division, but in a smaller form. Fulfilling its purpose adequately, which speaks directly into the church, it complements the Hauptwerk very well and functions as the crown of the whole instrument.

The Pedal division is highly developed. It has three 16' stops, giving the instrument a solid foundation. Thanks to the Quinte 10 2/3' an acoustical 32' can be formed. Moreover, this division also offers higher-pitched stops, perfectly suited for playing the cantus firmus part. With four reed stops, from Posaune 16' to Clairon 4', it makes the pedal sound powerful and voluminous. It also contains two mixture stops: Baßaliquote 4f. which boosts the natural harmonics of the lower ranks, and Mixtur 6 fach – crowning division's principal chorus. Thanks to a big variety of stops, the pedal section can work independently (without couplers) as it was originally conceived in historic baroque organ pedal divisions.

Overall, the organ has a noble and clean sound. Its reeds don't dominate the sound, but they complete the sound design and compliment the clean and bright mixture sounds. Together with the gorgeous acoustics of this gothic church, it is one of the rarer examples of a good neo baroque organ, which really took up the spirit of old baroque organs while adding "newer" features like the more unusual mutations or high-pitched mixtures. It really stands out as a fantastic instrument of its time.

## Stoplist/Disposition

Hauptwerk	Schwellwerk	Positiv	Pedal
Principal 16'	Gedackt 16'	Gedackt 8'	Principal 16'
Principal 8'	Principal 8'	Quintadena 8'	Offenbaß 16'
Koppelflöte 8'	Holzflöte 8'	Principal 4'	Subbaß 16'
Viola di Gamba 8'	Spitzgedackt 8'	Rohrflöte 4'	Quinte 10 2/3'
Quinte 5 1/3'	Salicional 8'	Sesquialtera 2f.	Oktave 8'
Oktave 4'	Oktave 4'	Oktave 2'	Spitzflöte 8'
Gemshorn 4'	Nachthorn 4'	Spitzflöte 2'	Baßaliquote 4f.
Quinte 2 2/3'	Rohrnassat 2 2/3'	Quinte 1 1/3'	Oktave 4'
Oktave 2'	Waldflöte 2'	Scharff 5 f.	Pommer 4'
Groß-Mixtur 6f.	Terz 1 3/5'	Spillregal 16'	Flachflöte 2'
Klein-Mixtur 4f.	Spitzquinte 1 1/3'	Trichterregal 8'	Mixtur 6f.
Trompete 16'	Sifflöte 1'		Posaune 16'
Trompete 8'	Oberton 2f.		Trompete 8'
	Mixtur 5f.		Dulcian 8'
	Cymbel 3f.		Clairon 4'
	Dulcian 16'		
	Oboe 8'		

**Additional:** II/I, III/I, I/P, II/P, III/P, Tremulant II, Tremulant III, Schweller II

## Sources

<https://piotrgrabowski.pl/erfurt-predigerkirche/>



## Bardowick, Dom zu Bardowick St. Peter und Paul

Beim Dom 9, 21357 Bardowick, Germany



<b>Builder</b>	A. Schuke Potsdam
<b>Year</b>	2012
<b>Period/Style</b>	Modern
<b>Stops</b>	45
<b>Keyboards</b>	3+P
<b>Keyaction</b>	tracker/mechanical
<b>Tuning</b>	Well-Tempered

### Description

The Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul in Bardowick, a Gothic hall church from the 15th century, is one of the most beautiful church buildings in Northern Germany. It has a long-standing musical tradition dating back to around 799 with the first church dedicated to St. Peter. The first organ is mentioned in 1322. The current organ, built by Alexander Schuke in 2012, resides in the historical case crafted by Philipp Furtwängler in 1867. This project, spearheaded by the Klosterkammer Hannover and the Lutheran Cathedral Congregation of Bardowick, aimed to create an instrument suitable for the rich acoustics and the organ repertoire, particularly that of Johann Sebastian Bach.

The new organ features 45 registers distributed over three manuals and a pedal, aligning with the design principles of central German city church organs of the Bach era. The comprehensive planning process involved extensive consultation with organ experts, including Professor Harald Vogel, and resulted in an instrument that accommodates both liturgical needs and a wide range of organ music styles. The organ was inaugurated on January 15, 2012, enriching the already vibrant organ landscape between Hamburg and Lüneburg.

## Stoplist/Disposition

Hauptwerk	Oberwerk	Brustwerk	Pedal
Groß Quintaden 16'	Geigenprincipal 8'	Gedackt 8'	Principalbass 16'
Principal 8'	Lieblich Gedackt 8'	Nachthorn 8'	Violonbass 16'
Bordun 8'	Fagar 8'	Principal 4'	Subbass 16'
Gemshorn 8'	Hohlfloirt 8'	Gemshorn 4'	Quinta 12'
Viola di Gamba 8'	Octava 4'	Quinta 3'	Octavenbass 8'
Octava 4'	Flaute douce 2f 4'	Octava 2'	Bassfloirt 8'
Rohrfloirt 4'	Nassat 3'	Tertia 1 3/5'	Octava 4'
Quinta 3'	Waldfloirt 2'	Siffloirt 1 1/3'	Posaune 16'
Superoctava 2'	Cornett 5f	Superoctava 1'	Trompete 8'
Sesquialtera 2f	Mixtur 4-5f	Mixtur 4f	Trompete 4'
Mixtur 5f	Hoboa 8'		
Scharff 3f			
Fagott 16'			
Trompete 8'			

**Additional:** BW/HW, OW/HW, HW/Ped, Tremulant OW, Tremulant BW, Glockenspiel, Cymbelstern, Vogelgeschrei, Kuckuck

## Sources

<https://nomine.net/orgel/bardowick-dom-st-peter-und-paul/>