

Victor Gonzalez

Établissements Gonzalez, Sarl, 92320 Châtillon, France



Founded/Born

-

Closed/Death

Still active?

1877 - 1956

no

Description

Victor Gonzalez (* December 2, 1877, in Hacinas, Province of Burgos, Spain; † June 3, 1956, in Paris) was a French organ builder and representative of the neoclassical organ.

Gonzalez was born in Spain. He was one of the last students of Aristide Cavaillé-Coll and learned the basics of organ building in his workshop starting in 1894. From 1899 to 1905, he furthered his knowledge at Merklin-Gutschenritter. He then worked at Limonaire Frères, specializing in mechanical musical instruments, followed by a position as intonateur at Gustave Masure's. In 1921, Gonzalez established his own workshop in Paris, which was moved to Châtillon-sous-Bagneux in 1929. His brother Fernand joined the company's management in 1930. In addition to building new organs, they extensively renovated numerous organs in the neoclassical style, particularly romantic organs. The firm's work includes about 200 new constructions and restorations.

Together with the organist and musicologist Norbert Dufourcq and organist André Marchal, who supported him, Gonzalez established the French neoclassical organ ("orgue néo-classique"). Between 1930 and 1960, they formed a counter-movement to the romantic, symphonic organ that reached its peak with Cavaillé-Coll. Gonzalez pursued the concept of a universal organ with different action systems, dispositions, and tonal ideals. He revisited the principles of classical French organ building and minimized the influence of Cavaillé-Coll to achieve an authentic "Bach organ."

Gonzalez was severely injured in a car accident and died a few months later after both legs had to be amputated. After his death, Georges Danion continued the company in Gonzalez's spirit. The workshop "Danion-Gonzalez" was relocated to the Vosges in 1964. Since 1980, under the leadership of Georges Danion and Annik Danion-Gonzalez, the company operates under the name "La Manufacture Languedocienne de Grandes Orgues."

Sources

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victor_Gonzalez_\(Orgelbauer\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victor_Gonzalez_(Orgelbauer))

Saint-Jean-de-Luz, Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste (choeur)

Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste, Rue Léon Gambetta, 64500 Saint-Jean-de-Luz, France



Builder	V. Gonzalez
Year	ca. 1930
Period/Style	Neo-Classical
Stops	16
Keyboards	2+P
Keyaction	electrical
Tuning	Equal at 440 Hz
Sampleset	<u>Piotr Grabowski</u>

Description

The choir organ of Saint-Jean-Baptiste church in Saint-Jean-de-Luz (France) was built in 1930. Victor Gonzalez, who built this organ, was a famous organ-builder in France during the 20th century. He actively participated in the boom of new neoclassical aesthetic which combined Clicquot and Cavaillé-Coll organs features.

In 2017, the instrument was in terrible shape. Therefore, in March 2018, it was decided by the parish and the association “Orgue à Saint-Jean-de-Luz” to start restoration works. In April 2019, the organ was fully playable, and it was re-inaugurated.

The restoration works were carried out by Pellerin & Uys - French organ-builder, who did some effective modifications including a new voicing to take full advantage of all stops. In the Grand-Orgue, the Sesquialtera was split into Nasard 2 2/3 and Tierce 1 3/5. He also added new couplers. The console and electrical action have been rebuilt. The compass of the pedal is from C to f3 and C to g5 for manuals.

The organ is situated in the chapel of the Virgin on the right side of the choir in an angle. The organ case does not have apparent pipes but consists of two enclosure boxes. The console is underneath the case, facing the right side of the altar.

All the restoration works resulted in rediscovering a beautiful instrument which is perfect for playing with choirs or with the great organ.

Stoplist/Disposition

Grand Orgue	Récit Expressif	Pédale
Bourdon 16	Flûte 8	Soubasse 16
Flûte harmonique 8	Flûte 4	Bourdon 8
Bourdon 8	Plein-jeu III	Flûte 8
Prestant 4	Trompette 8	Flûte 4
Quinte 2 2/3		Flûte 2
Doublette 2		
Tierce 1 3/5		

Additional: II 16/I, II 8/I, II 4/I, II 16/II, II 4/II, I/P, II/P, Annulation 8 GO, Tremblant

Sources

<https://piotrgrabowski.pl/saint-jean-de-luz-choeur/>

Paris, Église Sainte-Jeanne-de-Chantal (grand orgue)

Église Sainte-Jeanne-de-Chantal, Paris, France



Builder

V. Gonzalez

Year

1935

Period/Style

Classical

Keyaction

tracker/mechanical

Tuning

Unknown

Laroque-d'Olmès, Église du Saint-Sacrement

Église du Saint-Sacrement, Laroque-d'Olmès, France



Builder

V. Gonzalez

Year

ca. 1936

Period/Style

Classical

Keyaction

tracker/mechanical

Tuning

Unknown