

Faro (Sé e São Pedro), Igreja da Sé
Rua Domingos Guieiro, 8000-167 Faro (Sé e São Pedro), Portugal



Builder	A. Schnitger
Year	ca. 1716
Period/Style	Baroque
Stops	25
Keyboards	2+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical

Description

The Cathedral of Faro, located in the extreme south of Portugal in the Algarve region, boasts a rich historical narrative intertwined with religious and cultural evolution. Built on the site of a Roman temple, the church of Santa Maria, dating back to the late 13th and early 14th centuries, serves as a testament to centuries of architectural and religious transformations. The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, survived the Islamic rule from 711 to 1249, and was briefly converted into a mosque at the end of the 12th century before being reconstituted as St. Mary’s Church after the Christian recapture in 1249.

Faro became the episcopal seat of the Algarve in 1577, marking its importance in the region. The church's interior appointments primarily date from the 17th and 18th centuries. The cathedral complex, including the Bishop's Palace, seminary, and town hall, forms a remarkable ensemble of historic buildings in the carefully restored old town of Faro.

The organ at the Cathedral of Faro, installed in 1716 by the organ builder João Henriques from Lisbon, is a significant historical instrument. The organ's history is documented by an inscription from 1784 found inside a side panel in the upper case, detailing its construction and subsequent modifications. According to the inscription and cathedral archives, Henriques was commissioned in 1715, and the instrument was set up in the choir the following year.

Over the years, the organ underwent several repairs and modifications. The 1722 earthquake damaged the organ, leading to its relocation to a side gallery on the south side of the cathedral. Further repairs in 1743, 1745, and a significant decoration project in 1751-1752 by Francisco Coreira da Silva gave the organ case an exotic red-painted chinoiserie look.

The catastrophic earthquake of 1755 inflicted more damage, prompting the cathedral chapter to employ Pasquale Gaetano Oldovini, a Genoese master organ builder from Monchique. Oldovini's extensive restoration in 1767 introduced several new elements, including the construction of most of the Hauptwerk pipework, a new reed concept, and changes to the organ case to accommodate horizontal reed stops. Oldovini's modifications included restoring the Hauptwerk case, producing new carvings, expanding the Hauptwerk windchests, constructing small pedal windchests, and installing a new wind supply system.

In the 20th century, further work was performed by the Flentrop organ workshop in 1972-73 and by organ builder Dinarte Machado after the cathedral's renovation. These efforts aimed to modernize the wind supply and adjust the temperament of the organ, ensuring its historical and musical integrity.

The Cathedral of Faro, with its resilient organ, stands as a symbol of historical continuity and the rich cultural heritage of the Algarve region.

Stoplist/Disposition

Hauptwerk (Orgão Principal)	Brustpositiv (Positivo de frente)	Pedal
Flautado de 24 (Bourdon 16')	Flautado de 12 (Gedackt 8')	Contrabaixo de 24 (Subbass 16', Holz)
Flautado de 12 (Principal 8')	Flautado de 6 (Gedacktfloete 4')	
Bordão (Gedackt 8')	Flautilha de mão (Spitzfloete 4', Disc.)	
Voz Humana m.d.(Voce Humana, Schwebung 8')	Quinta Décima (Octave 2')	
Oitava Real (Octave 4')	Décima Nona (Quinte 1 1/3')	
Quinta Real (Quinte 3')	Vegésima Segunda (Octave 1')	
Quinta Décima (Superoctave 2')	Cornetinha de ecos m.e. (Sesquialtera II, Bass)	
Décima Sétima (Tertia 1 3/5')	Cheio de mão direita (Mixtur II, Disc.)	
Cheio 1. ^o (Rauschpfeife II)	Cheio de mão esquerda (Mixtur III, Bass)	
Cheio 2. ^o (Mixtur IV)	Cornetinha de ecos m.d. (Cornett III, Disc.)	
Corneta Real m.d. (Cornett V, 4' Disc.)		
Trombeta Real m.e. (Trompete 8', Bass)		
Clarim m.d. (Clairon 8' horiz. Disc.)		
Trombeta de Marcha m.e. (Trompete 4', horiz. Bass)		

Additional: Schiebekoppel/Shove coupler BW/HW, Pisantes (2 drum pipes), Rouxinal (Nachtigall)

Sources

https://orgeldatabas.gu.se/webgoart/goart/go_pub.php?p=36&u=1&f=334&l=de&sel=detail&id_nr=5869