

Stralsund, St. Marien

St. Marien, 16, Marienstraße, 18439 Stralsund, Germany



Builder	F. Stellwagen
Year	ca. 1659
Period/Style	Baroque
Stops	51
Keyboards	3+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Tuning	1/4 Comma Meantone
Sampleset	<u>Sonus Paradisi</u>

Description

The organ of St. Marien church in Stralsund (DE) was built by Friedrich Stellwagen (1603-1660). Today, the organbuilder is an iconic figure in German organbuilding and this organ with 51 stops on 3 manuals and a pedal is his largest preserved instrument. The organ replaced an older instrument that was destroyed by fire. During the construction of the organ, Stellwagen set up his workshop directly in the church, in the tower halls. Construction began in 1655 and was completed by October of 1659. Stellwagen died a year after that in 1660.

Numerous carved and painted figures, flames, grimaces and other elements decorate the 20-metre-high façade. In the centre stand a statue of King David playing harp, surrounded by music-making angels. The sun, moon, stars, and a winged globe crowning the organ just below the cathedral vault are also among the rich decorations. Below the case hangs an angel playing a trumpet. All these motifs went on to be characteristic of North German organ case style.

Two of the angels include the Stellwagen family coat of arms (a carriage frame) and the inscription "M. Friederich Stellwagen has performed this work. Anno 1659". On the highest crown of the façade stands an angel on a globe, holding an instrument with his right arm and a banner with the inscription "S. Dominus Deus Sabaoth" with his left arm. The central case houses the Hauptwerk and the Oberwerk. On either side are monumental pedal towers, and an equally impressive positive organ case sits in the balustrade of the organ gallery.

The organ is positioned quite high in the church, making its sound rather distant on the floor of the nave. Combined with the extreme reverberation of the building, recording this instrument was unusually challenging.

One of the most surprising features of this instrument is its very narrow scaling. The sound is clear and unusually rich in overtones. The organ was "progressive" at its time, inspired by the then-modern ideas expressed by Praetorius. For example, the Trumpet is narrow at the bottom, and wide on top, which makes the overall sound of the stop especially suitable for ensemble playing because of its good balance across the compass for polyphonic pieces. The bass is not too loud and the top is not too weak. We suspect that neo-baroque organbuilding of the second half of the 20th century took a lot of inspiration from this organ, which is why this particular instrument is so important to the history of organ building.

The instrument was changed significantly at numerous times during its history, and only a small part of the original material by Stellwagen has survived. However, Stellwagen pipes were available for many stops of the organ (550 pipes altogether). Therefore, restoration was possible, and it happened between 2004-2008 by the Wegscheider firm. When necessary, Stellwagen stops from other existing organs were studied in order to recreate stops for this monumental instrument.

Stoplist/Disposition

I Stimmen in rückpositiff.	II Stimmen in werck.	III Stimmen in oberpositidiff.	Pedal Stimmen in bas.
Gr.Quintadeen 16'	Principall 16'	Principall 8'	Gros.principall.Bas 32'
Principall 8'	Bordun 16'	Holflött 8'	Principall Bas 16'
Gedact 8'	Octava 8'	G.Plockflött 8'	Gedact.undersatz 16'
Quintadeen 8'	Spitz Flött 8'	Octava 4'	Octaven Bas 8'
Octava 4'	Hollquinta 5 1/3'	Kl.quintadeen 4'	Spitzflött Bas 8'
Dultz Flött 4'	Superoctav 4'	Nasat 2 2/3'	Superoctav Bas 4'
Feltpfeiffe 2'	Holl Flött 4'	Gemshoren 2'	Nachthoren Bas 4'
Sifflitt 1'	Flachflött 2'	Scharffs IV-VII	Feltpfeiffen Bas 2'
Sesquialtra II	Rauschpfeiffe II-IV	Trommet 8'	Mixtur Bas IV
Scharffs VI-VIII	Mixtur VI-X	Krumhoren 8'	Posaunen Bas 16'
Zimbell III	Scharffs IV-VI	Schalmey 4'	Trommet Bas 8'
Dulcian 16'	G.Trommet 16'		Trommet Bas 8'
Tröchter Regal 8'			Schallmey Bas 4'
Sup. regal 4'			Cornet Bas 2'

Additional: III/II, Vogelgeschrei, Glocklein, Zimbelstern, Trommell, Tremulant (working on Werck and Oberpositidiff)

Sources

<https://www.sonusparadisi.cz/en/organs/germany/stralsund-st-marien-stellwagen-organ-model.html>