

Washington, DC, National Museum of American History

National Museum of American History, Constitution Avenue Northwest, 20423 Washington, DC, United States of America



Builder	J. Snetzler
Year	1761
Period/Style	Baroque
Stops	6
Keyboards	1+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical

Description

The 1761 John Snetzler organ at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC represents a precious piece of musical heritage, being the sole survivor of the five chamber organs imported into North America before the American Revolution. The organ has been meticulously restored to its original appearance and playing condition, ensuring that it remains a functional piece of history. This restoration emphasizes its cultural and historical importance, providing insight into the craftsmanship and musical aesthetics of the period.

The organ's specification includes an 8' Stopped Diapason made of wood, and an 8' Open Diapason from middle C, made of metal, which highlights the typical construction materials and techniques of the era. Other stops include a 4' Flute (stopped wood), a 2' Fifteenth (open metal), and two ranks of II Sesquialter in the bass up to B and a II Cornet in the treble from middle C, both made of open metal. The presence of a pedal coupled to the manual keys further enhances the organ's versatility and depth, allowing for a fuller range of musical expression. This historically significant organ not only serves as a reminder of John Snetzler's craftsmanship but also offers a tangible link to the musical and cultural practices of the 18th century.

Stoplist/Disposition

Manual

Pedal (always attached)

Stopped Diapason 8'

Open Diapason 8'

Flute 4'

Fifteenth 2'

Sesquialter II (bass)

Cornet II (treble)

Additional:

Sources

<https://beta.pipeorgandatabase.org/instruments/1907>