

**PAUMANN, [PAUMAN] CONRAD [CUNRAD] -**

15<sup>th</sup>c German composer, organist, organ consultant, theoretician.

\*1409/10 Nürnberg (D:) born blind.

- the rich patrician family, Grundherr, took care of his education

1441/6- organist in the [Nürnberg, St. Sebald](#) church (Traxdorf organ of 1441)

1447 official appointment as Nürnberg city organist; in a poem by Rosenplüt he is called "master of all masters". His contract contained a clause forbidding him to leave the city without permission

1450/1 soon after his marriage he departed Nürnberg (without informing the authorities) and entered the service of Albrecht III in München; he was later absolved of his Nürnberg duties upon intervention of the duchess, Anna. He began a series of travels.

1452 wrote his *Fundamentum Organisandi* (a treatise on composition - in [Buxheimer Orgelbuch](#))

1454 is know to have played a number of instruments for Philip the Good (Burgundy) while visiting Landshut

1460 served under Sigismund

b1464 consulted regarding a new instrument in Salzburg

1466 consulted regarding a new instrument in Nördlingen

1467 served under Albrecht IV

1470 visited the Mantua court (I:); nicknamed *cieco miracoloso* ["blind wonder"] by the Italians, in Napoli, by the Duke of Milan and also the King of Aragon, he was offered various court positions which he declined, allegedly fearing vendettas from competing Italian organists.

1471 visited the Imperial Diet at Ratisbon where he played the organ of the Schottenkloster for a large gathering of nobles including Emperor Friedrich III and his princes and retinue

1472 consulted again regarding the Nördlingen organ

†1473 München (D:) buried in the Frauenkirche where his epitaph records: "Anno 1473, on the eve of the [Feast of the] conversion of St. Paul, died and was here buried the most ingenious master of all instruments and music, Cunrad Pauman, knight, born blind at Nürnberg, God have mercy upon him." *P*'s surviving works are a few songs and some organ music. His music is notated in German lute tablature which *P* is said (Virdung) to have invented himself (this, according to Christoph Wolff, is plausible since it suits the needs of a blind person forced to dictate his music). The style of *P*'s organ music is a florid upper part above a tenor in a 3-part texture. He achieved great international fame and was knighted in Italy. His life paralleled to some extent that of [Francesco Landini](#).