

RUTLAND PSALTER -

190-page illustrated psalter dating from c1250-1260 and possibly containing some late 14th/15thc additions. The manuscript was in the possession of Belvoir Castle before it was acquired by the British Library in 1983. It contains 6 full-page miniatures, of which this detailed depiction of King David shows a typical, very early positiv organ. It cannot be assumed that this represents a specific organ, although it might be identified as a 13thc instrument on account of its apparently diatonic keyboard. The presence of the organ with hurdy-gurdy and bells may likewise be symbolic rather than representative of typical contemporary musical ensembles. However it should be noted that both hurdy-gurdy, otherwise known as organistrum, and bells are also known to have been used in church ensembles at this time. There are other interesting features that probably derive from contemporary practice: the calcant uses his full body weight to produce what must have been a reasonably high wind pressure; the scaling of the pipes suggests that, for a small instrument, it may have been powerful, their bluish color might hint at the use of lead rather than former copper or bronze practices. A 20thc reconstruction at Marsum uses wooden pipes and has a second pair of bellows symmetrically mounted at the left. *RP* shows the clear use of fingers on keys, rather than hands around [key-slides](#), possibly providing a corroborating source to the [Anonymous of Berne](#)'s description of a key mechanism, but also possibly hinting at the new and "sensitive" pin actions.

