

The mediæval organ

Die mittelalterliche Orgel

L'orgue médiéval

- ☛ 1: [Article on materials used in pipe construction](#)
- ☛ 2: [A summary of scaling texts, archaeology, select publications](#)
- ☛ 3: [Examples of iconography relating to constant and variable scaling](#)
- ☛ 4: [General article on the history of scaling \(including mediæval\)](#)
- ☛ 5: [Tempering overview: Pythagorean to Quarter-comma mean-tone](#)
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Jerome de Moravia *Tractatus de musica* (1272-1304): first clear mention of lead.

“there is no doubt that the harmony issuing from an organ whose pipes are made of lead will be much sweeter than that which might come from pipes of tin or some other cruder and harder material.”
(Giovanni Maria Artusi in 1600)

[of an organ with lead pipes] “... it has a brave sound.” (E. Power Biggs in 1958)

Program resumé

Basel, Peterskirche 9th June 2012 14:00-17:00

Speakers: Winold van der Putten, Crawford Young, Brett Leighton, David Rumsey

topics covered:

- * reasons for building this organ and the models
- * doubled ranks, Netherlands traditions - demonstration of multi-unison-rank effects
- * the presence of lute pieces in organ tablatures
- * the three Gothic organ types (cf. Praetorius description of Halberstadt, Norrlanda)
- * Keyboard Design, Compass: Robertsbridge, Faenza, Buxheim
- * Organ pipes: historical metallurgy
- * bellows and their operation
- * iconography involving the organ and ensembles
- * pre-Schlick pitch-standards
- * Constant and Variable Pipe Scaling
- * Discussion of constant-scaled rank problems - solution $a = 520?$ or higher?
- * Broadening of keyboard compasses as pipe-technology allows
- * Arnaut's suggested alteration of the wolf's position in Pythagorean tempering
- * Recorders accompanied by pipes made from lead and with mediæval scalings
- * Singers and questions of balance determined by the power of the organ
- * the scaling, building, voicing and tuning of medieval pipes
- * pedals and the earliest examples of notated organ pedal parts in history
- * 6' ranks and early Blockwerks

Part I: Constant scaling/early pythagorean tempering

Repertoire:

- Perotinus - Beata viscera (monophonic conductus tenor & hurdy-gurdy / estampie hurdy-gurdy & organ BL)
- Montpellier Motet - Deus / O regina / Nobis (soprano, organ BL)
- Faenza - Kyrie with Alternatim (organ BL, tenor)
- Machaut - de toutes flors (hurdy-gurdy, fiddle, organ BL)
- Robertsbridge Estampie #1 full estampie (tutti instrumental, organ BL)

Part II: Arnaut's variable scaling and new tempering

Repertoire:

- Adam Ileborgh: i) in c 6' rank ii) in d (→a) 8' (organ with pedals DR)

Buxheim Orgelbuch:

- Pange lingua (#163, e) (organ BL)

- Con lagreme bagnandome (#29, F) (organ BL)

- Qui vult messite (#128, g) (organ BL)

- Ma douce amour (#79/80, d) (organ BL)

- Mi ut re ut (#118, C) (organ BL)

- Dunstable - O rosa bella with original version (recorder, fiddle, organ - ensemble and organ) (organ DR)

- Dufay - Ave regina celorum (soprano, tenor, organ BL)

- 8' and 6' combined (Organ improvisation by Jankees Braaksma)

Part III: The rise of chorus effects, approach of mean-tone tempering

Repertoire:

- Myn trud gheselle (Wolfenbüttel MS - Lute solo)

- Glogauer Liederbuch: Die welt, die hat ein tummen sin (tenor, organ BL)

- Anonym: Praeambulum in re (Biblioteca comunale di Trento, ca.1520) (organ BL)

- Hans Kotter: Praeambulum in sol (aus der Tabulatur des Bonifacius Amerbach, ca.1518) (organ BL)

- Anonym: Preambalo in la naturale (Kleber Tabulatur, 1524) (organ BL)

- Anonym Tantum ergo sacramen[n]tum N.Z. (e) (Krakauer Tabulatur, 1548) (organ BL)

- Arnolt Schlick: aus Tabulaturen etlicher lobgesang... (1512): (ca.1455 - ca.1525) Benedictus (g) (organ BL)

- Lochamer Liederbuch - mit ganzem willen (tutti instrumental) (organ DR)

Participants

Winold van der Putten (organ builder) [NL] [web-site](#)

Brett Leighton (Gothic organ) [AUS, A]

Crawford Young (lute) [USA, CH]

Jankees Braaksma (Gothic organ) [NL] [web-site](#)

Tobie Miller (hurdy-gurdy, recorder, soprano) [CDN, CH]

Mathias Spoerry (baritone) [F, CH]

Elizabeth Rumsey (fidel and viola d'arco) [AUS, CH]

including a new (2012) viola d'arco from Richard Earle of Basel

David Rumsey (Gothic organ) [AUS, CH] [web-site](#)

Links

[to David Rumsey's home page](#)
[to David Rumsey's mediæval page](#)
[Details of the van der Putten organ](#)

See also on this site:

[Glossary of medieval organ topics](#)
[Explanation of Gothic-mediæval organ types](#)
[A general background to Gothic-mediæval organ culture](#)

With special thanks to

[Peterskirche, Basel](#)

and Peterskirche organist

[Babette Mondry.](#)

