

THE **ORGAN** PROJECT AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Holy Trinity Church will soon be filled with its original seventeenth-century organ sound again

The organ project includes:
restoration of the 1631 façade and
a reconstruction of the original organ from 1631.

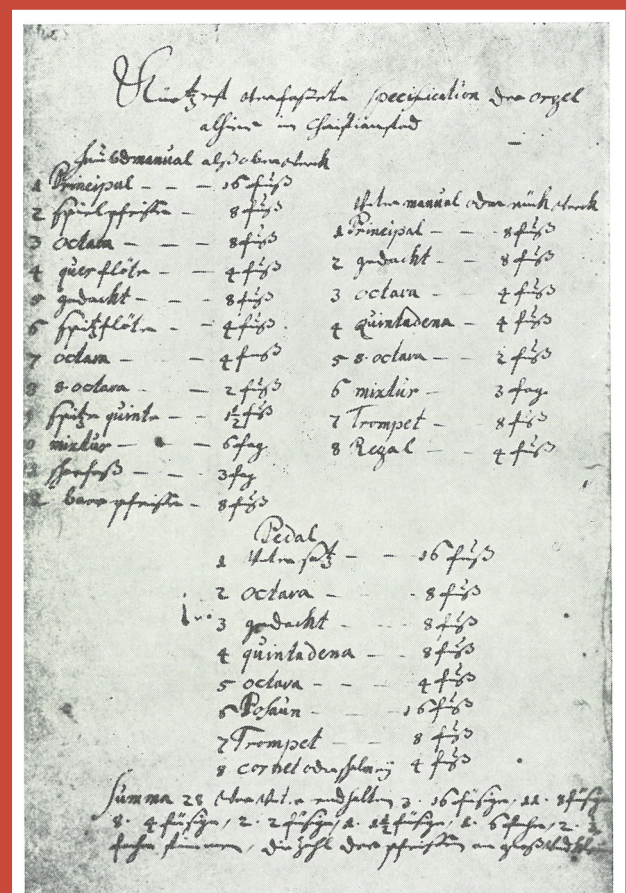


Christian IV makes it known to all that we have come to an agreement with the most respectable Johan Lorentz, organ builder, citizen of our merchant town of Copenhagen, that he, at his own cost, shall build and make ready an organ in our newly-founded merchant town of Christianstad that we are building. The organ shall be similar in size and form to the one that he has constructed in the church in our castle at Fredriksborg, with pipes, bellows, register stops, pedals and everything else that is necessary, with no exceptions in any respect, and the same organ shall be built and in the size set out in the papers he has drawn up and signed. And whatever material he needs, whether it be tin, lead, metal, iron, timber or anything else, with whatever name it should be called, he shall procure it at his own expense, and build this same organ and finish it completely and perfectly. So we have graciously granted that he should be given 1800 riksdaler, where a daler is calculated at 80 shillings, which shall be paid out to him by our representative on site as the work is completed and approved.

signed
Fredriksborg March 30, 1619.

So read the contract between King Christian IV and the organ builder Johan Lorentz. In fact the organ turned out to be much bigger than the Fredriksborg organ, and the completely preserved façade can be seen on the balcony on the west wall of the church.

The organ had two manuals and pedal, and a total of 28 registers, according to Hans Henrich Cahman's restoration report from 1685.



What kind of organ do we have now?

The organ in the west balcony consists of a façade with façade pipes and behind this façade is an organ case housing several thousand pipes. The façade and its pipes have been in place since the organ was built in 1631. The rest of the pipes are from the most recent rebuilding of the organ in 1961.

The façade is well-preserved and so unique that there are plans to make a complete reconstruction of the original organ.



What does a reconstruction entail?

A reconstruction or restoration means, generally speaking, that the instrument is restored to its original state so that its sound and function are brought to life again and its inherent beauty can be fully appreciated.

To attain the best possible result, a thorough examination of the historical parts of the organ that we still have must be carried out. What methods were used in building the organ? Are there any other existing organs that were built by the same organ-builder or his teacher or pupils? What is typical of organ-building from this period?



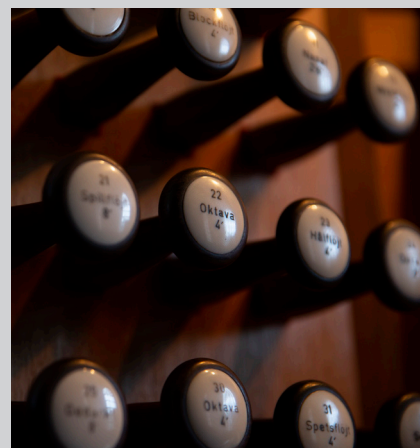
Why reconstruction?

Like many other instruments, an organ often retains the beauty of its tone through the centuries. Beauty is, of course, partly a subjective experience, but ever since the early 1900s Renaissance and baroque instruments have been the model for many organs. At that time organ-building flourished largely because of a growing need for instruments that could support the zeal for hymn-singing in the congregations.

The Lutheran Church advocated singing in the native language, and the organ is excellent for providing support for singing in big churches, needing only two people, the organist and the bellows pumper, as opposed to a whole orchestra.



The Choir *Cantores Trinitatis* sings in the Holy Trinity Church.



Do we have the knowledge for a reconstruction?

For about two years a pre-study has been in progress to examine whether a reconstruction could be carried out. Organ researcher Koos van de Linde has gone through the historical material in the organ and has come to the conclusion that the chances of carrying out a successful reconstruction of the organ are very good. The pre-study, along with new, in-depth studies of organs of the same period, provide enough material to ensure a very successful reconstruction project in Holy Trinity Church.

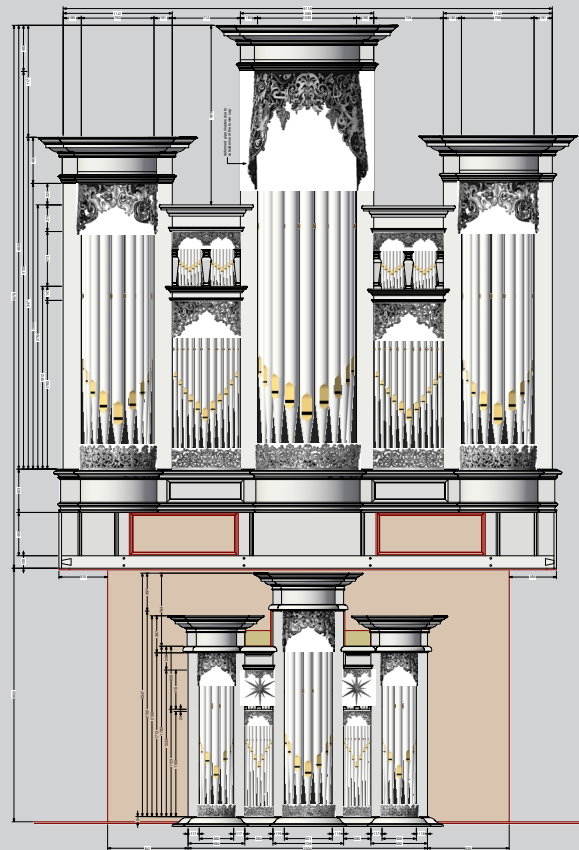
Koos van de Linde has studied the material in the pipes in detail.

The faade pipes have been measured and compared with reference pipes. What changes have there been during the centuries? What inscriptions can be read? What do they mean?



This, and much more, has convinced Koos that a reconstruction of

the Lorentz organ is not impossible. The façade with its original Principal pipes together with reference organs by Lorentz's pupils and teachers, provides enough information for a reconstruction to be carried out with very good results.



What next?

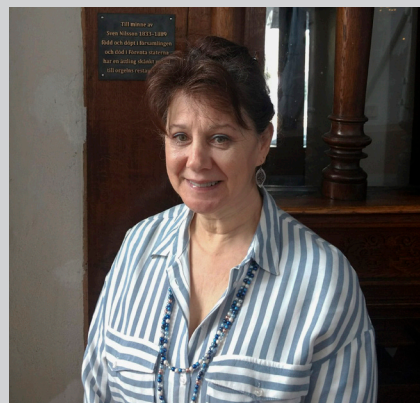
We want many people to feel that they are part of this exciting project. We believe that an organ of such significance is of great interest not only locally but also nationally and internationally.

From a historical standpoint there is much that is in common with Denmark, since it was the Danish King Christian IV who founded our town and gave it its magnificent church.

From a musical point of view this organ will open up a completely new world of sounds. The instrument will once again be adapted to suit the acoustic conditions in the church.

A large part of our present work is to finance the project. We are extremely grateful to have been given a considerable donation that can be used as the foundation of the project. We are going to look broadly for other development partners. There is room here for both interested private persons and companies and organisations.

Money from the diocese's conservation fund should also be a welcome contribution towards restoring the existing parts of the organ.



Sandy Lerner is of Swedish descent. She is the Founder of Cisco Systems, and has made a substantial and generous donation to the project.

Would you like to know more?

Get in touch with me and I can tell you more about the project.

Or why not book in a visit to the organ loft?

There is more material about the organ project on our homepage:

svenskakyrkan.se/kristianstad/orgelprojektet

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Detail of a seventeenth-century pipe



Inscription by Johan Lorentz on one of the seventeenth-century pipes



Decorative detail from high up on the façade, dating back to 1631.

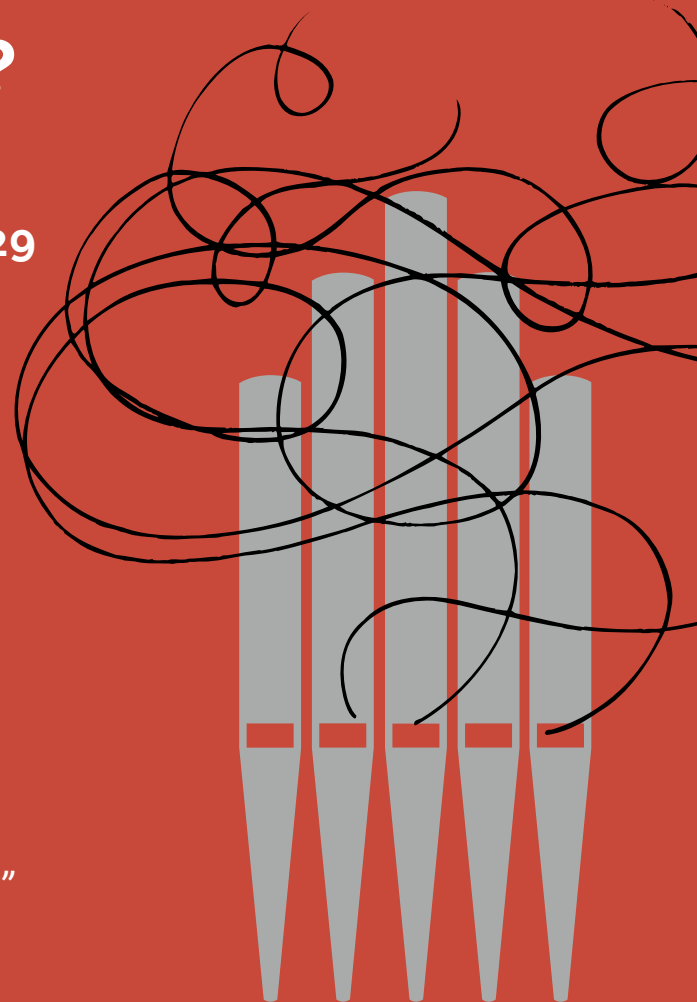
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