

Schnitger – Stade - digital

Digital Organ: Attempt at Evolution

The term organ is derived from the Greek „organon“, Latin “instrumentum,, German “Werkzeug” i.e. tool. The system of the organ consists of two systems of tone, the classical system of keys and the classical system of instruments, the registers or stops. In this regard, the organ is an integrative and closed system. But the organ is also a representation of non-natural, anthropogenic syntheses.. The classical system synthesizes out of the infinity of sounds twelve tones, the registers synthesize distinctive sounds, f.e “trumpet”. These syntheses transmit the natural reality into another reality, which is related to the reality of nature. Therefore the organ may be considered as the first synthesizer.

During the course of the past decades, in reality, a quantum leap has taken place, above all the digitalization of the reality. This new reality can be considered as a second reality. In the history of the organ, this new reality has taken place due to the fact that several manufacturers digitized pipe organs, which are now available for manipulations by the computer.

Classical works are played here, digitalized and controlled by the computer, modified by an algorithm, in this case the American software Level II (Dr. T's) for Atari. The results are extremely diverse and almost infinite. The classical systems are based on the condition of stability: C is C, the trumpet is the trumpet. Objects lose their uniqueness, they merge into each other and can be continually combined newly and differently. The rule of registration (e.g. Plein jeux, Tierce en taille) has no longer a clear relation, the integrity of pitches and stops disintegrates in quantum dots, attracting and repelling each other and harmonizing. The integration of the organ is dissolved into a mosaic of sound, in which you can however hear the original integration.

The whole production here is an attempt – improvisatory and imperfect – to approach the phenomenon organ , the synthesis of reality into a new one. The organ allows this evolution: Gabler created his vox humana, Aelion-Skinner the string sections, and now the last technological evolution is taking place: the digitalizing of systems.