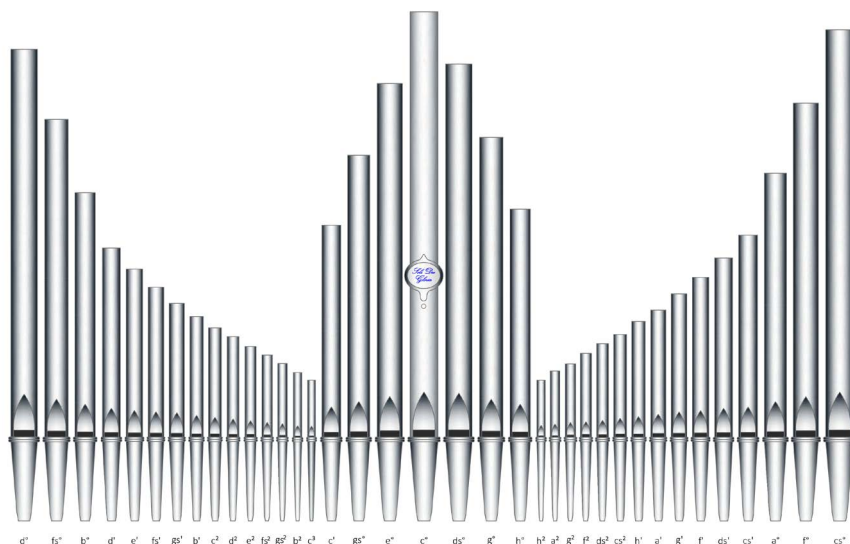


Project Outline

White gold meets historical pipes

Porcelain pipes for the Jehmlich organ
in the Frauenkirche in Meissen





**"Making progress is nothing more
than to start again and again."**

Martin Luther

The organ restoration in the Meissen Frauenkirche has been completed. But we have not yet reached our goal. Because now we have to climb to the top. Historical organ pipes are to meet "white gold": Pipes made of Meissen porcelain, which make the organ in the Meissen Frauenkirche a unique experience.

We thank previous companions and supporters, encouragers and donors, and are delighted about all those who are now embarking on this new path with us.

Förderverein Frauenkirche Meißen e.V.

Mai 2022

Dreams

In 2000, the then artistic director of the Meissen Porcelain Manufactory, Ludwig Zepner, succeeded in producing sounding porcelain organ pipes for the first time. Ever since his apprenticeship, he had been thinking about how to make melodious organ pipes out of porcelain. Together with the renowned organ building company Jehmlich Orgelbau Dresden GmbH, the porcelain designer and artist succeeded towards the end of his professional life in developing the appropriate technological prerequisites, and so turned a great idea into reality.

In 2001, Ludwig Zepner was awarded the Meissen Art and Culture Prize of for his life's work.

One of the most ardent wishes of the artist, who has since died, was to make functioning porcelain organ pipes. For where could the precious material porcelain be more appreciated than in the "queen" of instruments?

And where in the world should such a first "porcelain organ" be located if not in Meissen, the cradle of Saxony and of European hard porcelain - the town that was Ludwig Zepner's home for decades?

Ludwig Zepner found a sympathetic ear for his great idea and this technologically and artistically significant project at the Evangelical Lutheran Parish of St. Afra Meissen and the Frauenkirche Meissen Fundraising Association (Förderverein Frauenkirche Meißen e.V.).

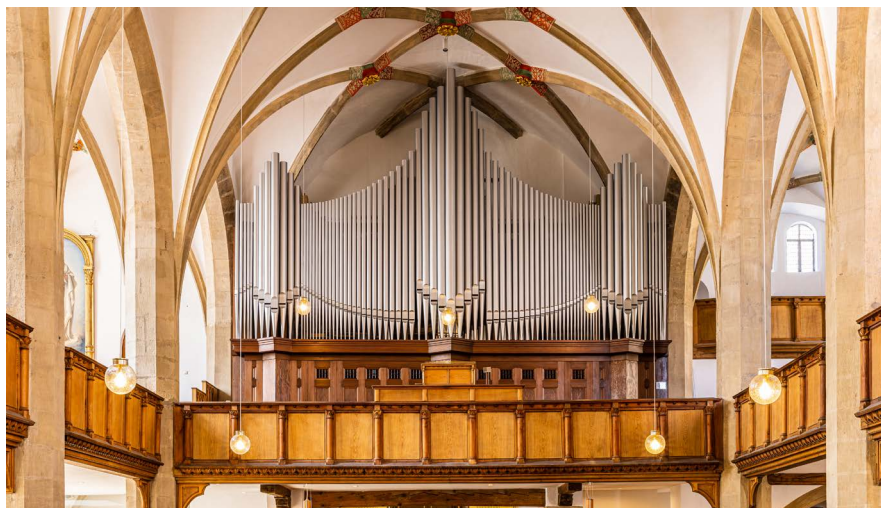


Aims

In a world first, the church organ in the Frauenkirche in Meissen is to be equipped with organ pipes made of Meissen porcelain. As the cradle of European hard porcelain and the seat of the first European porcelain manufactory, the market church in the small Saxon town is virtually predestined for this. The Frauenkirche also already houses a work of art made of Meissen porcelain: the world's first tunable porcelain carillon, which has been hanging in the tower of the Frauenkirche since 1929 and has been ringing out over the town every day since.

With the addition to the Jehmlich organ, which was restored from 2019 to 2021, of a porcelain set of pipes, the parish and the Fundraising Association want to contribute to the enrichment of cultural life in Meissen with another porcelain highlight and thus do justice to their role as bearers of art and culture. This ties in with the existing porcelain carillon, the significance of which is given an additional boost.

The addition to the historic Jehmlich organ of pipes made from the valuable material porcelain enriches the instrumental genre and is an outstanding innovation in a traditional context. The project thus contributes to raising awareness of the importance of this instrument as an engine for art and culture in the future.



Porcelain and the Church

The Meissen Frauenkirche is first mentioned in 1205 as a chapel on the market square. Essentially, the building in its present form as a late-Gothic hall-church was built at the end of the 15th century. This makes the Meissen Frauenkirche around 500 years older than its big sister in Dresden.

As the oldest parish church in Meissen, the Frauenkirche is still an important and valuable piece of living urban culture. Situated directly on the market square, it shapes the image of the historic old town, whose architectural history is reflected in it.

It is both a place of contemplation and a place of vital and cultural life, as evidenced by numerous concerts, events that reach far beyond Meissen, and a lively community life. All this makes the Frauenkirche an important building that creates identity.

The world's first carillon made of Meissen porcelain (1929) helped the church to become known far beyond both the Federal Republic of Germany and Europe. This special role is now to be completed by the first church organ with additional organ pipes made of Meissen porcelain.

The two porcelain works of art in the church on the market square will contribute to cultural enrichment, especially with regard to the 1,100-year anniversary and Meissen's application to become a World Heritage Site.



Musical Porcelain as Innovation

The Jehmlich organ in the Frauenkirche in Meissen is almost original, and is therefore an important witness of its time. Built between 1930 and 1937, it reflects the stylistic changes of the German "Organ Reform Movement". Remarkably, its stock of pipes from previous organs contains what are now known to be the oldest organ pipes still preserved in Saxony (see also the survey by Reinhard Schäbitz, 2016).

After years of silence, the historically significant pipes were restored in accordance with conservation criteria from August 2019 to May 2021 by the company Jehmlich Orgelbau Dresden GmbH.

In a further phase of construction, the organ is to be supplemented with set of pipes made of Meissen porcelain - "white gold" - which will give this historic organ a very special tone. Even the Saxon Authority for the Preservation of Historical Monuments considers this to be an extremely positive addition; both closely connected to the tradition of the city and extremely innovative.

Meissen porcelain has made Meissen, the cradle of European hard porcelain, an internationally important attraction for visitors from all over the world. Meissen and Meissen Porcelain stand nationally and internationally for innovation, technological development and design.

The construction of the world's first church organ with a set of pipes made from Meissen porcelain gives this precious material a new timbre, and is therefore of far-reaching national and international significance. This forward-looking art and culture project must not remain just music for the future, but should become a motor for the continuation of traditional cultural processes.



Milestones

After decades of efforts to replace the Jehmlich organ, built between 1930 and 1937, with a new organ in the Frauenkirche, the original organ concept had to be rethought in 2015 due to a conservation reassessment.

As a result of the official order, which made the dismantling of the historic organ stock and the building of a new organ impossible, the concept of a "communicative organ" developed by cantor Karsten Voigt could not be implemented.

The concept for the general restoration of the historic organ was developed after examining and evaluating the historic organ stock, in consultation with the Office for the Preservation of Historical Monuments and the Regional Church Office,

The State Authority for the Preservation of Historical Monuments attaches great importance to the addition of porcelain to the existing organ:

"With a general restoration of the Jehmlich organ, not only would it be possible to once again play and hear an important witness to Saxon organ building of the 20th century, but there would also be the possibility of an extension of the instrument with an additional "porcelain work" in the loft parapet."

..., (d)The planned porcelain organ (would) be perceived as a modern addition, but one that is closely connected to the tradition of the town, in a form that architecturally fits the room and the gallery parapet..."

(Excerpt from the reassessment by Dr. Rosemarie Pohlack/Saxon State Conservator from 3 February 2015).



After many steps on the path back to a playable organ, the first construction phase - the general restoration of the Jehmlich organ - was finally completed in May 2021.

The aim is now to supplement the historical collection with a creation made of Meissen porcelain.

Construction Phase 1:

The general restoration took place between 2019 and 2021.

Construction Phase 2:

This great task must now be implemented.

Brief outline of the most important milestones so far:

2010	Decision by the church council to build a new organ
2011	Dr. Thomas de Maizière takes over as patron
2012	Start of public relations and fundraising activities
2013 - 2017	Redevelopment of the Frauenkirche as a structural prerequisite
2015	Reassessment of the historic Jehmlich organ in terms of monument conservation and protection
2017	Church council resolution for general restoration and addition of porcelain organ pipes
2019-2021	General restoration of the historic Jehmlich organ
Mai 2021	Reconsecration of the organ after restoration

The foundation stone has thus been laid for the start of the second construction phase, which is now to be implemented in an optimal manner over the next three years.

A Win-Win Situation

The creation of another Meissen Porcelain cultural highlight in Meissen is a gain for all those involved in the cultural, touristic and spiritual life of Meissen.

The parish of St. Afra Meissen, as custodian of the church building, is therefore striving for close networking that will allow joint steps to be taken on the path to implementation.

The porcelain pipes will be an enrichment for the town and its cultural and tourist landscape. The tourist attraction of the old town centre will be distinguished with another cultural magnet. The carillon and the porcelain organ create a link between the town centre as a tourist centre and the porcelain manufactory in the Triebisch valley, and together they attract numerous tourists and interested people.

In this way, additional target groups will be reached. The organ landscape in the cultural city of Meissen, which is well equipped with numerous restored organs, will experience further enhancement. The planned organ innovation will enable Meissen to become the icing on the cake in the attractive and world-renowned Saxon organ landscape and attract specialist tourists from all over the world, as the instrument joins the ranks of important objects such as the Silbermann organ in Freiberg or the Renaissance organ in Coswig.

The State Porcelain Manufactory Meissen has been given the chance to demonstrate its skills and diverse nature in the city centre and to use them as a further marketing platform.

The Frauenkirche Meissen Fundraising Association, which has been committed to the organ project for decades, could provide a concept of use after completion, thus contributing to the revitalisation of the market area and strengthening its own profile through successful event management.

The church itself, the church as a building, and also the organ as queen of instruments, all experience a new dimension and bring the parish into play as a significant bearer of art and culture in a completely different way.

A joint approach by the town administration and its governing bodies, the State Porcelain Manufactory Meissen, the Frauenkirche Meissen Fundraising Association and the parish of St. Afra Meissen can be the driving force for success so that the innovative development of the first Art and Culture Prize winner of the town of Meissen - Ludwig Zepner - no longer remains a dream, but becomes reality.

The town and the manufactory, together with the parish and the Fundraising Association, could act as bearers of new ideas and thus open up new dimensions for the organ project.

Commitment to Art and Culture

The previous Meissen Art and Culture Prize winners will be involved with the porcelain organ project so that they can bring it to the attention of the public in a targeted way.

In 2001, Meissen awarded an Art and Culture Prize for the first time after reunification. This was awarded to Ludwig Zepner. In order to increase publicity and raise funds for the porcelain organ, the artists who have been awarded the Art and Culture Prize are to be won as supporters.

The award has been presented every two years since 2004. Previous winners are Michael Winkler (2004), Karsten Voigt (2006), Andreas Weber (2008), the Stern-Combo Meißen (2010), the artists Kay Leonhardt (2012) and Ulrich Jungermann (2014), the singer-songwriter Gerhard Schöne (2016) and the porcelain artist Jörg Danielczyk (2018). In 2020, the prize was presented to the artist and photographer Daniel Bahrmann.

By committing to Ludwig Zepner's dream, the Art and Culture Prize winners together with their specific possibilities and talents could contribute to a broad public impact on the most diverse levels.



Spendenkonto

Spendenkonto bei der Sparkasse Meißen

Förderverein Frauenkirche Meißen e.V.

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