

The Great Organ at the Church of St. Catharinen in Hamburg:
the Phenomena at the Organ Enlargement in the 17th Century and the Meanings
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The purpose of this paper is to clarify why the organ enjoyed such a phenomenal expansion in 17th century Northern Germany. For this, I focused on the great organ at St. Catharinen's Church in Hamburg, and used account books to investigate the processes through which the organ increased in size.

It became clear through this investigation that throughout the century the great organ progressively increased in size; that there existed a sense of competition with other churches regarding organs; that every alteration required significant financial investment; that the church attained authority through the organ's great 32f.pipes.

The causes of this enlargement of the organ are as follows: the corresponding favorable economic climate in Hamburg during the period, the improvement in the status of the organist within the Protestant Church, the bustling trade in the city allowing for the attainment of excellent organ construction materials, the gathering of skilled organ builders who advanced the technology of organ construction.

Organists seeking these giant instruments and greater professional status gathered in the region and developed advanced playing techniques. To accommodate these techniques they demanded more alterations to the instrument in order to enable greater expression. In other words, there was a cycle of improvement among both instruments and performers in the latter half of the 17th century in Northern Germany, which accounts for the aforementioned phenomenal expansion of the instrument.