

# Kiedrich

## Oldest organ in Germany

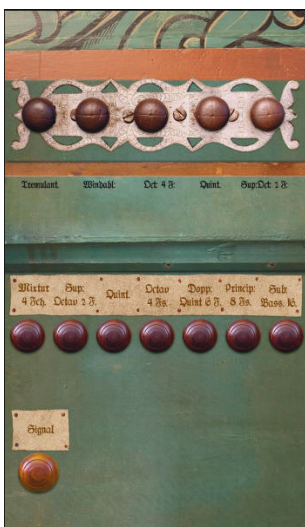


**This organ, which resides in the St. Valentinus and Dionysius church in Kiedrich, has the reputation of being the oldest playable organ in Germany. Although this claim to fame is questionable, it's certainly one of the oldest, with elements dating from circa 1500.**

The organ was rebuilt by Johann Kirchner in 1652 and later altered several times. In the contract to repair the organ in 1710, the Positiv of 6 stops is mentioned for the first time, although it was presumably added already by Kirchner. The independent pedal was added probably in 1722. The restoration done in the 19th century is remarkable, because it is so unlike those performed on many other historical organs at that time. When the Baron John Sutton discovered the instrument on one of his journeys

through Europe, he was captivated by its Gothic origin and he supplied the money to "restore" the instrument to its 1500 state (at least according to the romantic perceptions of the mid 19th century).

The Gothic and the neo-Gothic elements blend together exceptionally well in this particular church. The visitor is truly astonished by the church's ambiance when entering the building. The absence of the ecclesiastical baroque, which is so common elsewhere, make this church and its organ absolutely extraordinary.



### *Positiv*

Gedact	8
Flöte	4
Octav	4
Waldflöte	2
Quint	1 1/2
Super Octav	1

### *Great*

Gr. Gedact	16
Principal	8
Flöt. Gedact	4
Octav	4
Quint	3
Super Octav	2
Mixtur	4
Cymbal	2

### *Pedal*

Subbass	16
Principal	8
Dopp. Quint	6
Octav	4
Quint	3
Super Octav	2
Mixtur	4

