

The background image shows the interior of St Mary's Cathedral in Tallinn, Estonia. The focus is on the Ladegast-Sauer organ, a large pipe organ with a complex, ornate facade. The organ is situated in a high, vaulted space with Gothic architectural details. The lighting is soft, highlighting the intricate carvings and the dark wood of the organ case. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and architectural beauty.

## The Ladegast-Sauer organ at St Mary's Cathedral (Toomkirik) of Tallinn

On October 8, 1878, a three-manual pipe organ with 48 stops built by the Weissenfels master Friedrich Ladegast was consecrated in St Mary's Cathedral of Tallinn, its prospect still gracing the Cathedral's interior today.

In 1913, the Cathedral Congregation decided it was time to modernise the organ. The renovation was commissioned from the renowned organ builders Wilhelm Sauer (then owned by Paul Walcker) of Frankfurt an der Oder. Wilhelm Sauer added new stops and replaced the mechanical tract with the then-popular pneumatic tract while maintaining most of the Ladegast pipes, bellows, and the prospect.

The Cathedral's Sauer organ op. 1171 has 71 undulating stops and two mixtures, distributed on three manuals and pedal. Pipes number around 4,500, the tallest is seven metres and the shortest, three centimetres long. Typical of Romanticism, the organ boasts orchestral sound quality, it has a relatively large number of strongly intonated solo stops, and a third manual with a tightly closing swell box. All solo stops are superbly intonated, suited to using individually, and, when used simultaneously, blend into a majestic *tutti*.

Thus the greatest value of the organ of St Mary's Cathedral, Tallinn, lies in the survival of the art of two German organ builders in a more or less original shape. The instrument's extraordinary, colourful sound is a synthesis of Ladegast's nearly classical organ building tradition and the refined Late Romanticism presenting perfectly in Sauer's pipe organs. Figuratively speaking, this instrument represents the two most famous German organ builders shaking hands over the turn of the century.

### Restoration

The organ was restored between January and July, 1998. Pipes were thoroughly cleaned and renovated.

To resurrect the authentic sound, the whole set of pipes was tuned to preserve the typical sound characteristics of Ladegast and Sauer. All the valves in the wind chests had their leather parts (membranes) replaced; the console was thoroughly restored at the workshop in Germany; the main bellows had its skins replaced, whereas the rest of the bellows were checked and repaired. The final two months were devoted to adjustments and tuning carried out by tuner Matthias Ullmann and organ builder Tino Herrig. Tuning was based on the initial tuning pitch, using as reference the tuning fork of Paris, 435 Hz at 15 °C.



### **Revaler Totentanz by Aare-Paul Lattik**

Aare-Paul Lattik's *Revaler Totentanz*, or *Reval's Dance of Death* is inspired by the *Dance of Death* painted by Bernt Notke (1440–1505) and currently exhibited at Tallinn's St Nicholas' Church, now a museum and concert hall, Reval being the historical German name for the city of Tallinn. Notke painted two versions of his *Dance of Death* – the *Lübecker Totentanz* (originally situated at Lübeck's Marienkirche and destroyed during World War Two), and the one in Tallinn, miraculously surviving (albeit in part only) and on public display at St Nicholas.

Lattik: In this *Dance* I endeavoured to explore a simple, even banal dance theme depicting Death Angels revelling at some tavern, drunk and wasted, plucking human lives as the dice fall. This simple, banal Death awaits us all – kings and artists, rich and poor... Despite the wailing of the souls, leaving no hope, always hovering above us like a dark shadow.



# TALLINN CATHEDRAL ORGAN

## AARE-PAUL LATTIK



### A

**Maurice Duruflé** 1902–1986

Prélude, Adagio et Choral varié sur  
le theme du «Veni creator» op. 4 21.08

### B

**Gabriel Pierné** 1863–1937

Prélude Op. 29 N. 1 3.19

**Aare-Paul Lattik** 1970

Revaler Totentanz 7.30

**Jules Grison** 1842–1896

Toccata en fa 7.34

**AARE-PAUL LATTIK** studied organ with Urmas Taniloo at the Tartu Music School, and further on with Professor Hugo Lepnurm and Andres Uibo at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre before receiving his Master's degree. Aare-Paul Lattik continued his studies at the Lille Conservatoire in France with Professor Aude Hurtematte, the titular organist of Saint-Gervais, and at the Lyon Conservatoire with Professor Louis Robilliard. Simultaneously, he was studying for his Master's degree at the Music Department of Sorbonne University, Paris. He has worked as the organist of St Michael's Church in Tallinn and as lecturer at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre. Lattik is winner of the 2000 Con Brio contest and the 2005 international Mikael Tariverdiev Organ Competition. He has given concerts in Estonia and abroad, recorded several CDs, and composed music. In his varied repertoire, a special place is reserved for French organ music.

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