

Bach in Arnstadt

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The highlight of the exhibition is the organ console which Bach tested and played on since 1703 at the New Church in Arnstadt. In 1699 the construction of a new organ had been contracted and in 1701 completed by the famous organ builder Johann Friedrich Wender.

Due to his good knowledge of organ building, the 18-year-old Johann Sebastian, who was a violinist in Weimar at that time, was invited to check and test the organ. His ingenious disposition as a musician was recognized immediately and no other candidates were invited to sample. The organ has 21 speaking stops, 3 secondary registers, 2 manuals and 1 pedal.