

Pipe Organ of the Matriz Church of Valongo

On the twentieth day of the month of September, in the year 1880, the President and members Saldanha, Aguiar, Morgado, Ribeiro, the Reverend Abbot and Dom José Alves Jorge de Oliveira Malta gathered in the Sacristy of the Parish Council of the town of Valongo, where the reception of the Pipe Organ of the Parish Church of Valongo was decided. The organ had been acquired from the organbuilding company Peter Conacher & Company of Huddersfield for the total sum of two hundred and thirty pounds sterling, paid upon reception, plus “the cost of transport from the port of shipment to this church, duties, insurance, and installation.”

The organ was inaugurated on February 6th, 1881.

This instrument of the Church of Valongo has a single manual and a pedalboard. The manual has a compass of 56 notes, from C to G, and includes 8 stops. The pedalboard has a compass of 30 notes and one 16’ stop. There is also a Tremulant. All the stops of the Manual, except for the Montre 8’ and Flute 8’, are enclosed in the swell box. The console is lateral, which allows the organist to have direct contact with the progress of the celebrations.

This organ, due to its specific measurements and voicing, has a very special sound, and through the different 8’ and 4’ stops, a remarkable variety of tone colors and volume can be achieved. The existence of a tierce in the lower range of the Mixture lends a special character to the bass in the Plenum.

According to some sources, the organ has undergone several interventions over the last few decades. In a report from July 2005, Father Avelino Abreu stated that when he was appointed Parish Priest of Valongo in 1965, the organ was not working, and he took the initiative to have it repaired by a company from Porto – Invicta Lda. Fábrica de Órgão Harmóniuns. Although there are no written records, it is estimated that it was at this time that the air supply system was electrified, which until then had been operated manually. However, only in 1978 was a complete repair of the instrument carried out.

More recently, a third intervention was carried out during the restoration of the Matriz Church, between 2009 and 2011, by Master Organbuilder Pedro Guimarães Von Rohden. In this restoration/conservation intervention, which began in January 2011, cleaning, conservation, and the replacement of some materials were carried out.

Specification

Great Organ, C to G, 56 Notes

Manual Keyboard

1. MONTRE: Metal, 8', 56 Pipes;
2. FLAUTA HARMÓNICA: Metal, 8', 56 Pipes;
3. BOURDON: Wood, 8', 56 Pipes;
4. DULCIANA: Metal, 8', 44 Pipes and 12 from BOURDON;
5. PRESTANT: Metal, 4', 56 Pipes;
6. FLAUTA HARMÓNICA: Metal, 4', 56 Pipes;
7. MISTURA: Metal, 3 Sons, 168 Pipes;
8. TROMPETE: Metal, 8', 56 Pipes;
9. FLAUTA HARMÓNICA: Metal, 4', This is the lower section of no. 6
10. TROMPETE: Metal, 8', This is the lower section of no. 8

All stops are full except for numbers 6 and 9, which are divided.
From no. 3 to no. 10, the ranks are all placed inside the swell box.

Pedalboard

11. SOUBASSE: Wood, 16', 30 Pipes
12. Manual-to-Pedal Coupler

Other Accessories

Three combination pedals for drawing and retiring stops

Tremulant