

Rieger - Kloss Varhany Krnov, spol. s r. o. is pipe organ builder based in Krnov. With some 70 employees being a small business, the company is proud of its long and intriguing history. Let us start with a brief look at its curriculum from the birth in 1873 until the modern days.

HISTORY

The Beginnings (1873 - 1903)

Company founder, Franz Rieger, was well-known throughout the Silesian region as an organ-builder of exceptional skill. He established the factory with his brother Otto Rieger in 1873 and they built their first organ named OPUS 1 for the World Exhibition in Vienna. The instrument drew great attention and in 1878 the firm built another large instrument - this time for the World Exhibition in Paris. The Paris show brought in many new orders and made it possible to build a pipe organ factory in Krnov.

From the very beginning it has been the most important and most famous plant in Central Europe and one of the major plants in the whole of Europe. In 1880 Emperor Franz Joseph I decorated Otto Rieger with the Knights' Cross and the Rieger Brothers firm was granted the title of the "Imperial and Royal Supplier of Pipe Organs". Pope Leo XIII raised Otto Rieger to the Knight of the "Order of Holy Grave".

During these early years from 1873 to 1903, over one thousand organs were built by the Riegers and the number of employees was approximately 70. It was a period of great prosperity for the factory. Many instruments were shipped to Norway, England, Spain, Turkey, Palestine, Portugal, Denmark, and Germany. The Riegers' organs travelled as far as Argentina and Mexico

The Years 1904 - 1945

In 1904 Otto Rieger Junior took over the company. The firm's steady growth was interrupted by World War I and the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Following these historic events, the company was forced to look for new markets while the production fell.

Josef Glatter-Gotz became owner of the factory in 1924 and it was he who managed to restore company fame and market position over the world. During this period - from 1924 to 1939 - the firm built almost one thousand pipe organs and swelling up to about 100 employees. Nearly a half of its products was installed in Czechoslovakia and the rest went to other European countries or to the distant continents of Africa, Asia and South America.

The Second World War played again a destructive role in the life of the company. Because of lack of manpower and materials the production was reduced to a minimum.

The Post-War Period and Present (1946 - 2005)

After World War II both production and the number of employees increased sharply (number of employees varied from 190 to 230). In 1948 the Krnov firm was nationalized and merged with the local Kloss organ-building company. In the same year the RIEGER - KLOSS trademark was registered and Rieger-Kloss organs soon found their way into the world's major markets.

After the social changes in 1989 the company came through difficult transformation and in 1994 was privatized. Also after that period RIEGER-KLOSS VARHANY s.r.o. proudly continues the organ building tradition which started by the Rieger Brothers in 1873 which stands for the world's finest quality and the most beautiful sound of organs justly called "the King of Instruments". By now the factory has built 3724 pipe organs.

LIST OF REFERENCES

The beginnings of the organ-building firm putting out products with the RIEGER-KLOSS trade mark today date more than 130 years back..

Since 1873 the firm became reputable under name "The Rieger Brothers". The presentation of its instruments at the World Exhibitions in Vienna and Paris were a glorious entrance to the international market of that time. The importance of the firm also increased through visits of notable clerical dignitaries and world-famous personalities, like for example the Emperor Franz Joseph I who honoured Rieger with the Knights' Cross and conferred the title of "Imperial and Royal Supplier of Pipe Organs" on the firm. Also, Pope Leo XIII raised Rieger to The Knight of the Order of the Holy Grave.

On this good basis, the firm worked throughout all periods from its rise, through both World Wars, by today.

There are some of the important instruments from the company's old days:

Vienna, Concert House	116 stops	Austria
Salzburg, Mozarteum	80 stops	Austria
Budapest, Coronation Cathedral	80 stops	Hungary
Viborg, Dom	76 stops	Finland
Montevideo, Cathedral	60 stops	Uruguay
Buenos Aires, Church of the Holy Spirit	46 stops	Argentina
Kaunas, Conservatory	43 stops	Lithuania
Jerusalem, Church of the Holy Grave	40 stops	Palestine
Porto Allegro	28 stops	Brazil
Rome, Sta. Maria	25 stops	Italy

After the second World War the merged Rieger-Kloss continued organ-building earning back the prestige of the per-war firm again. The firm has built 600 opus numbers from 1945 to the nineties and the following instruments became most prestigious:

Bratislava, Concert Hall	84 stops	Slovakia
Prague, Concert Hall Rudolfinum	70 stops	Czech Republic
Moscow, Tchaikovski Hall	80 stops	Russia
Bucharest, Radio Building	87 stops	Romania
Tallin, Concert Auditorium Estonia	67 stops	Estonia
Cairo, Conservatory	60 stops	Egypt
Jerevan, Concert Auditorium	62 stops	Armenia
Odessa, State Theatre	35 stops	Ukraine
Kazan, Conservatory Hall	49 stops	Kazakhstan
St. Peterburg, Orchestra hall	64 stops	Russia
Olomouc, St. Maurice Church (reconstr.)	94 stops	Czech Republic

In recent years the Rieger-Kloss organs entered small churches, places of worship, cathedrals as well as schools, conservatories, theatres and large concert halls. Here are some representatives of this period:

Bydgoszcz, Concert Hall	49 stops	Poland
Tartu, Concert Hall	47 stops	Russia
Bratislava, Radio Building	89 stops	Slovakia
Prague, Cultural Palace	87 stops	Czech Republic
Kaliningrad, Concert Auditorium	44 stops	Russia
Zlin, Concert Auditorium	45 stops	Czech Republic
Charkov, Concert Auditorium	48 stops	Ukraine
Volgograd, Concert Auditorium	65 stops	Russia
Alma Ata, Concert Auditorium	74 stops	Kazakhstan
Krnov, Concert Auditorium	40 stops	Czech Republic
Pekin, Concert Auditorium	63 stops	China
Klagenfurt, St. Egit´s Church	57 stops	Austria
Prague, Music Academy	41 stops	Czech Republic
Wheaton, Cathedral	22 stops	USA
Seoul, Sung-Rak Church	52 stops	Korea
Sainte Maxime, Church	22 stops	France
Guangzhou, Concert Hall	84 stops	China
Hirschhorn, Church	35 stops	Germany
Charleston, W. Virginia, Kanawha, Presb. Church	28 stops	USA
Neugersdorf, St. Josef´s Church	11 stops	Germany
Seoul, Kyung-Sin Church	43 stops	Korea
Kun-Po, Sellin Church	39 stops	Korea
Roselle, Illinois, Trinity Lutheran Church	41 stops	USA
Ostrava, Conservatory, Concert Hall	48 stops	Czech Republic
Yoch On, First Presb. Church	38 stops	Korea
Phoenix, Arizona, Orangewood Presb. Church	39 stops	USA
Krosno, Serca Pana Jezusa Church	25 stops	Poland
Beloit, Wisconsin, First Congregational Church	73 stops	USA
Seoul, Chong Kyo Methodist Church	33 stops	Korea
Clarksville, Tennessee, Madison Street Un. Meth. Church	87 stops	USA
Mobile, Alabama, Government Street Presb. Church	75 stops	USA
Fort Payne, Alabama, The First Baptist Church	75 stops	USA
Rochester, Minnesota, The Church of Saint John	68 stops	USA
Košice-Šaca, Catholic Church	13 stops	Slovakia
Pardubice, J.Suk Hall, Conservatory	47 stops	Czech Republic
Savannah, Georgia, Independent Presbyterian Church	81 stops	USA

Since the opus numbering began, by now the company has built 3 724 organs at all continents. Beside building new units, Rieger-Kloss is engaged in general overhauls and reconstructions of historic organs, as listed in next part.

The firm objective is high quality of materials and make of the instruments which together with captivating richness of sound colour wants to give all customers, listeners and interpreters great satisfaction.

**LIST OF RECONSTRUCTIONS, RENOVATIONS
AND RESTORATIONS OF DISTINGUISHED ORGANS
BY THE RIEGER-KLOSS KRNOV**

- 2003- **Astrachan - Conservatory, Russia** - general console innovation and instalation of Setter combinations MSP 1000 by PETERSON, USA
- 2002- **Ostrava - Janacek Philharmony** - general console innovation and instalation of Setter combinations MSP 1000 by PETERSON , USA
- 2001- **Ostrava - Janacek Philharmony** - rebuilding RIEGER-KLOSS organ op. 3510, 5 manuals and pedal, 85 stops, originally located in former Cultural Palace in Prague for 4 manuals and pedal, 63 stops for Cultural House Vítkovice in Ostrava
- 1999 -**Olomouc, St. Moritz** - console innovation of the distinguished barock oragan, built by Michael Engler in 1740-1745, electric console with 5 manuals and pedal, 136 stops totally
- 1998 - **Rimsting - Germany** - rebuilding, restoration and renovation of the historic organ, Neningen organ builder, size III+P/35
- 1996 - **Hirschhorn - Germany** - completion and building-in of a new organ into the historic organ case
- 1994 - **Rychnov nad Kněžnou** - restoration of the distinguished instrument from the 19th century, organ-builder Georg Spaniel 1843, tracker slider, size II/37
- 1994 - **Prague, St. Ludmila** - renovation of the well-known organ from Em. Š. Petr from 1898, tracker cone with Barker lever, size III/46
- 1994 - **Prague, Vyšehrad** - renovation of the technically interesting organ of the Paštik Brothers 1902, atypical pneumatic cone, size III/46
- 1994 - **Krnov, St. Martin** - repair and extension of the distinguished instrument of Rieger company, restoration of the old organ, supply of manual III. Built in 1904
- 1994 - **Vyšný Medzev, Slovakia** - renovation of the devastated organ of Georg Schwartz from 1775, with reuse of old parts. Tracker slider, II/19
- 1992 - **Stará Bělá** - repair and extension of Rieger instrument Op. 95, tracker cone II/12 with optoelectronic unit supplement
- 1991 - **Most, transferred church** - restoration of the historic instrument of Wenzel Starck according to original documentation from 1739, tracker slider II/23, electric supplement with the second console III/64
- 1988 - **Carlsbad, Grandhotel Pupp** - repair and ceompletion of the distinguished Rieger instrument from 1925, electric and pneumatic cone, size III 58/53

- 1988 - **Halenkov** - repair of the organ of Karel Neusser from 1897, tracker cone I/13
- 1988 - **Krnov, Concert Hall** - original positive of Rudolf Rieger from the church in Andělská Hora 1858, tracker slider, size Pos./3
- 1987 - **Prague, Hus's Choir in Vinohrady** - renovation of the distinguished Rieger Unit organ from 1934, electric outlet, size III 145/19
- 1986 - **Povážská Bystrica - Orlová, Slovakia** - restoration of the baroque positive organ Pos/5 from the mid - 18th century, tracker slider
- 1985 - **Broumov Monastery** - repair and completion of the Rieger organ from 1937, front of T.W.Agadoni 1689, electric outlet with Johnsonn`s wind chests, II/31
- 1985 - **Lnáře, Castle** - repair of the barock organ from the mid-18th century, tracker slider with subsequent pedal supplement, size I/6
- 1983 - **Budapest, Hungary** - rebuilding and reconstruction of the organ in the Royal Cathedral of the King Matthias, size V+P/85
- 1982 - **Moravský Karlov** - repair of barock organ of Karel Welzel from 1795, tracker slider, size II/16
- 1982 - **Pilsen, Czech Brothers** - repair of the instrument of Ludwig Edenhofer from 1869, tracker slider, I/12
- 1981 - **Prague, St. Jacob, large organ** - the distinguished concert instrument from 1941, front of A. Starck 1705, renovation and extension, electric cone IV/95
- 1981 - **Olomouc, St. Wenceslas Cathedral** - restoration of the memorable Rieger organ from 1885, tracker cone with Barker lever, size III/50
- 1981 - **Jeseníky, Evang. Church** - repair in the original style of the organ Rieger Op. 100 from 1883, tracker cone, size I/8
- 1980 - **Višňové near Žilina, Slovakia** - restoration of the distinguished memorable organ of Ján Pazický from 1797, tracker slider, size II/20
- 1979 - **Opava, Silesian Museum** - restoration and renovation of the destroyed positive organ from Dìhylov, Ant. Hruzek 1864, tracker slider, size Pos/6
- 1977 - **Olomouc, P. Maria Sněžná** - restoration of the distinguished baroque organ of J.G. Galbich from 1728 impaired through building work, tracker slider, size II/28
- 1973 - **Markov near Šumperk** - restoration of the baroque positive organ of Klement Melzel from 1776, tracker slider, size Pos/6
- 1961 - **Olomouc, St. Moritz** - repair of the distinguished instrument of Michael Engler from 1745, size III/43, extension to V/94 (the second console), tracker and electric slider (1972)

