

Baton change in New Organ Building

As at 1 June 2010 Hans-Peter Keller will become the head of the New Organ Building Division and a member of the Board of Management. He is taking over from [Dieter Rüfenacht](#) who is retiring. Hans-Peter Keller worked at Dieter Rüfenacht's side for many years and was the first choice of both workforce and the whole management team. "We are delighted to have been able to find a successor in our own ranks. We set great store by continuity. We are convinced that Hans-Peter Keller is the right person to take New Organ Building forward, for our customers and partners, with his feeling for tradition, prudence and ability to innovate", says Managing Director Dieter Utz.

Hans-Peter Keller – Prudence combined with a feeling for teamwork



Crafts, sound and design - Hans-Peter Keller (51) has been captivated by the combination of these three elements since he first came into contact with organs, and it has never let him go.

The appointment of Hans-Peter Keller to the position of Manager of New Organ Building coincides with his 26th anniversary with Kuhn Organ Builders. He is very well prepared for the new challenge. In addition to his long experience, particularly as Dieter Rüfenacht's deputy, he is a trained manager, economist and administrator. Since 2007 he has also been inducted into the peculiarities of Kuhn Organ Builders by the Managing Director personally. One core element in this process has been the democratically inspired operating principles. These lay emphasis

on continuity, transparency, consultation, responsibility and part ownership by employees - values which are characteristic of Kuhn Organ Builders' style of management.

Managing also means listening

Communication is highly valued at Kuhn's. It is taken very seriously not only in the exchange with customers, but also internally. The ability to listen is of particular importance. And this is one of Hans-Peter Keller's greatest strengths. In the words of his colleague, Wolfgang Rehn: "Hans-Peter always pays great attention when he has to listen. His calm, prudent approach allows him to consider matters from various angles and to reach the best decision on this basis."

When he wants to express his opinion he places great store on stating things very clearly. He can clarify his thoughts best when working. "Technical design in organ building is characterized by clarity. Every part has to fit the next one exactly. I subject myself to this requirement, too, when I have to head projects or teams, and now the whole Division."

Internationally and culturally experienced

"If Swiss know-how is required anywhere in the world, this keen designer will be there," wrote the Tagesanzeiger newspaper about Hans-Peter Keller in May 2009, in its supplement on training. Indeed, Hans-Peter Keller has already worked in 12 different countries. In the course of his travels he has acquired intercultural competences which he finds of benefit in a variety of situations. Where flexibility is required, for instance in southern Europe, he is flexible and knows how to act. Where exact arrangements and meticulous planning

are needed, such as in Japan, then he appreciates the situation and is pleased when everything turns out well and on time.

Hans-Peter Keller is a man of the world, even if he himself would not especially say so. At first sight he has a modest temperament, but his ambitions in the field of organ building are just the opposite. His greatest wish is "together with my team to produce first class organs in various styles and sizes. First-class music requires first-class organs; to be allowed to build them is a great privilege."

The future needs tradition and innovation

Enthusiasm for a thousand-year old craft like organ building does not exclude the desire to innovate. On the contrary: Hans-Peter Keller has made a name for himself precisely in modern design. Well-known examples are the organ designs in Chur and Lüneburg, which were created in cooperation with leading architects. On the other hand, he is also a supporter of tradition. We need only mention his work in Bad Wurzach and Trun. "As far as possible, a balance has to be achieved between the organ, interior design, acoustics and the principal's expectations. In the final analysis this is always the prime objective." - A philosophy which Hans-Peter Keller has taken over from Dieter Rüfenacht. He intends to take this philosophy forward with his team. Responsibly, prudently and with a fine feeling for teamwork.

A brief portrait of Hans-Peter Keller

Year of birth: 1958

1974 – 1978: Apprenticeship in organ building at Kuhn Organ Builders

1978 – 1980: Organ builder at Kuhn Organ Builders

Further career

1980 – 1986: Orgelbau Goll, Lucerne (planning, erection management, restoration, organ care)

1987 – 1990: Orgelbau Genf (design engineering, erection management, organ care)

since 1990: Kuhn Organ Builders (new organ building, construction, design)

Further training

Training to take over as Manager of New Organ Building

Various training courses in management, business administration and organization

A selection of three organs designed by Hans-Peter Keller

CH - Lyss, ref. church

DE - Hamburg Altona, St. Johannis

DE - Osnabrück, St. Petrus Cathedral

Languages: German (mother tongue), fluent English, French

Instruments: piano, organ

Composers he admires: Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Brahms

Writers he admires: Frisch, Dürrenmatt, Thomas Mann