

## **Small guide to the organ: glossary of terms**

### **Blower**

Functions as the organ's 'lungs', which supplies the pipes with an air-flow at a constant pressure. The blower is usually driven and "re-filled" by an electric motor. One type of blower is the double fold bellow, which is originated in France, primary used in romantic organs.

### **Windchest**

A flat, box-like component inside the organ, on which the pipes sit, while air is conveyed to its bottom from the blower through the wind trunk. The windchest stores the air passing through from the blower and allows it to enter the pipe that the organ player selects by operating the action. A corresponding valve belongs to each key inside the windchest, thus this component is responsible for the tone colour and pitch of each note spoken by the pipes.

### **Stops**

The stops determine the tone colour of the organ and are differentiated by pitch and tone quality. Each stop controls an entire rank of pipes. The Voigt-organ has 77 stops, which implies that there are 77 different types of pipe ranks in the organ.

### **Action**

The mechanical (or pneumatical, electrical) linkage between keys or pedals pressed by the organist and the valve that allows air to flow into the pipes of the corresponding note. The stop action allows the organist to control which ranks are engaged.

## **Pneumatic system**

Conveyance of energy based on compressed air of various pressures and their resulting pressure differences. When an organ key is depressed, pressurised air is released from a tube, thus the cone-shaped flap at the other end of the tube opens allowing the air to enter the pipe.

## **Pneumatic valve chest**

A type of windchest perfected by Voit & Söhne. The sound of the pipes is controlled by a wedge-shaped valve placed inside the windchest.

## **Wind trunk**

A wooden duct that conveys wind through the organ.

## **Manual**

A keyboard to be played by the hands; the Voit-organ has four manuals placed above one another.

## **Pedals**

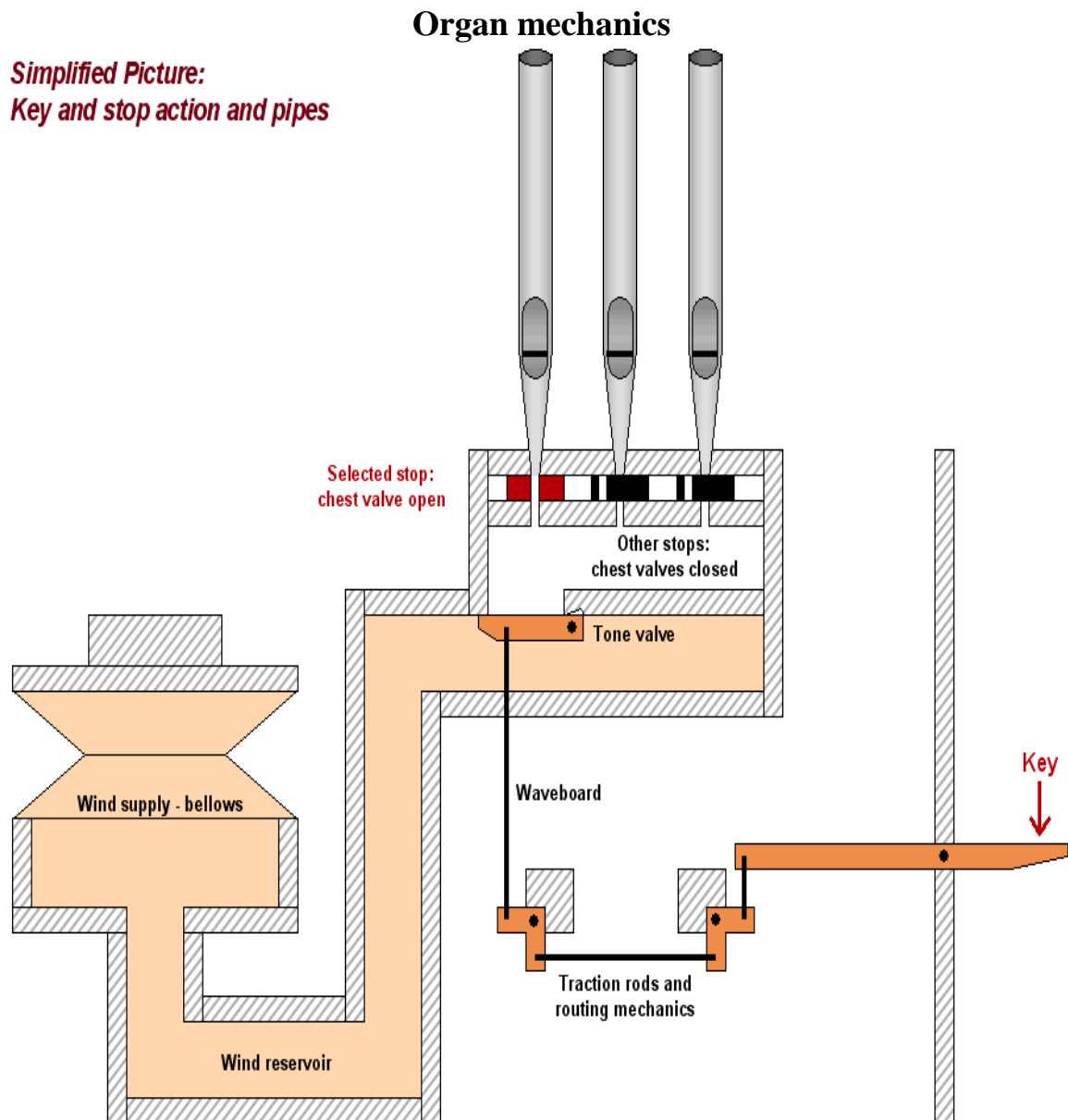
A single large keyboard to be played by the feet.

## **Principal**

Metal stops prominently featured by open flue pipes in the façade of pipe organs, which is to represent the primary tone colour of the organ.

## **Console**

The control centre of the organ consisting of a cabinet containing the manual and pedal keyboards as well as the stop control and other technical assistance devices. The organ's sound can be controlled with the help of these components.



**Simplified Picture:  
Key and stop action and pipes**

