

Organ of the Palais des Tuileries

Pierre Érard 1855, After Sebastien Érard 1827.

An abridged and translated description of mechanisms and registers.

Christian Tedesco

In 1855, Pierre Érard rebuilt the organ at the Palais des Tuileries which was destroyed in the revolution of 1830. The new organ was remarkably similar to the original organ built by Sebastien Érard in 1827. Changes included the fitting of a pneumatic lever to the Grand-Orgue, replacement of the *Cromorne* with a *Voix Humaine*, and the inclusion of a touch-sensitive *Jeu Expressif* on a third keyboard. This instrument was destroyed with the rest of the palace in 1883 but was thoroughly documented by its maker before it met its fate. This document is a translation, correction, and abridgement of this material to provide a concise description of this unique organ.

Every stop could be turned on by a combination pedal along with the traditional stop knob, there were also two “fermer” pedals that disengaged any stop of the grand-orgue & récit if it was engaged by the pedals. Three couplers were provided over the stop-pedals: Récit to Grand-Orgue, Jeu Expressif to Grand-Orgue, and Jeu Expressif to récit. The récit was fitted with a *tremblant doux* and its expression box was worked by the standard 3-notch pedal at the right of the pedalboard. The Jeu Expressif had no register control, and its volume was determined by how far the keys were pressed, giving the impression of a piano.

The pedal keyboard pulled down the lowest basses of the grand orgue. A particularity is the basson register: period sources group this register with those of the récit, but in reality it would have played in the grand-orgue and pedals by extension. The basses of the flute, bourdon, trompette, and basson were mounted on special chests with the two extra notes, G0 and G#0, played from the pedals only. A combination pedal disabled the lowest 16 notes of the Grand-Orgue’s main chest to allow plainchant in the pedal with just the four aforementioned stops, accompanied by the plein-jeu of the Grand-Orgue.

The disposition of the organ, in the order of the wind chests, is as follows:

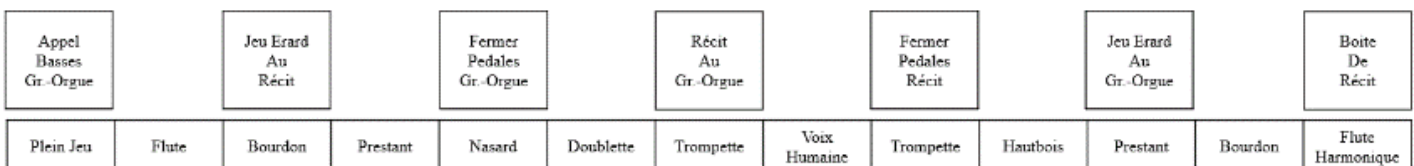
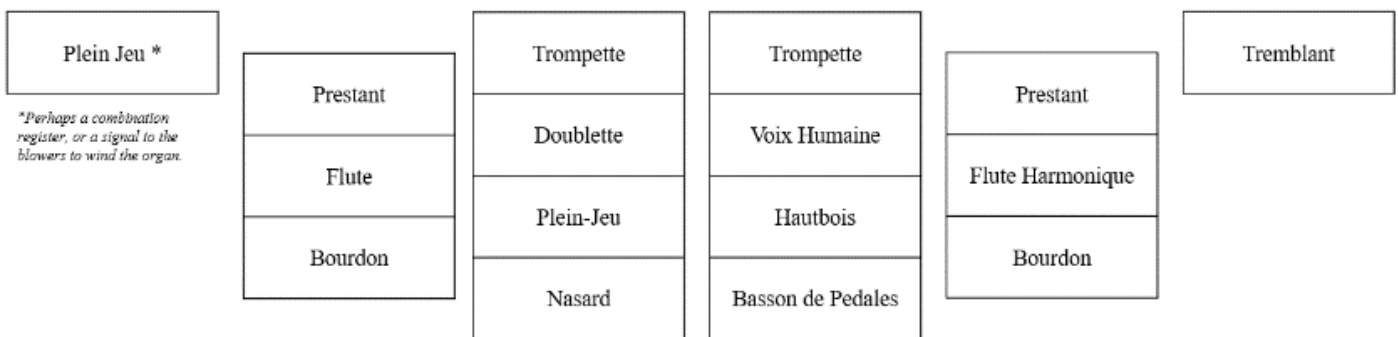
First Keyboard, Grand-Orgue: 591 pipes.

- Flute Ouverte, *61 pipes with extension for pedals.*
- Bourdon, *61 pipes with extension for pedals.*
- Prestant, *59 pipes.*
- Nasard, *59 pipes.*
- Doublette, *59 pipes.*
- Plein-Jeu 3 ranks, *177 pipes.*
- Trompette, *61 pipes with extension for pedals.*
- Basse de Basson, *18 pipes with extension for pedals. Auxiliary chests only.*

Second Keyboard, Récit Expressif: 319 pipes.

- Voix Humaine, *59 pipes.*
- Trompette from c, *44 pipes.*
- Hautbois from g, *37 pipes.*
- Prestant, *59 pipes.*
- Bourdon, *59 pipes.*
- Flute Harmonique from c, *44 pipes.*

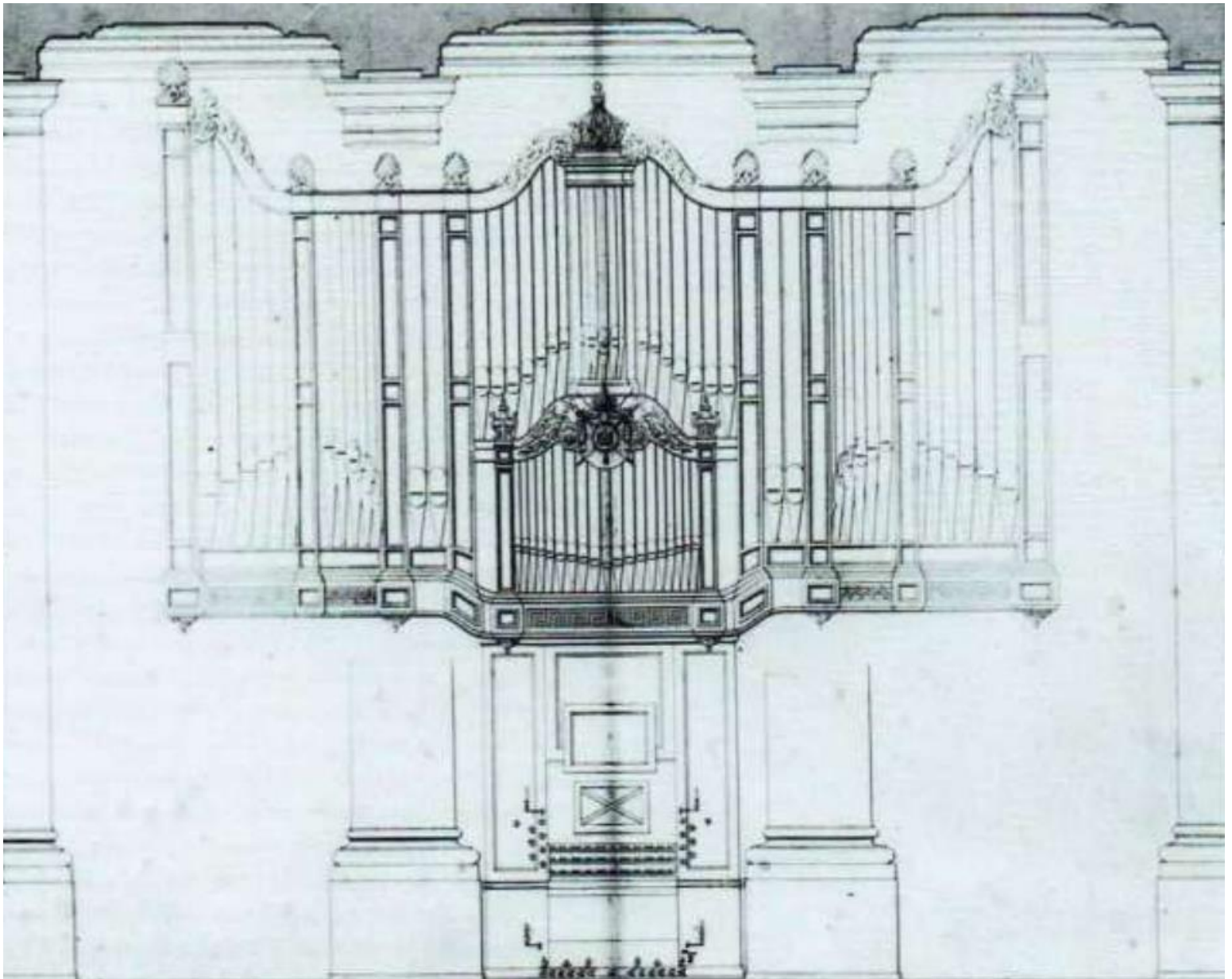
Third Keyboard, Expressif: 59 pipes.



Disposition of registers at the console

Sources:

- *Érard, Pierre. L'Orgue du palais des Tuileries Construit par S. Érard en 1827, détruit en juillet 1830, réédifié par P. Érard en 1855.*
- *Gronstein, Nicolas. L'Orgue post-classique Français.*



Organ Buffet

Plan of Interior (next page)

SECTION HORIZONTALE DE L'ORGUE DE LA CHAPELLE DES TUILERIES

INVENTÉ ET EXÉCUTÉ PAR SÉBASTIEN ET PIERRE ERARD

Coupe suivant la ligne 1 et 2 de la Planche 2.

