

Le voyage de l'orgue

Photographs **GILLES PERRIN**



On November 15, 2024, an unusual event took place in the abbey of Saint-Amant-de-Boixe in Charente. Following the announcement of major works to be carried out in the building, its organ, built by the organ maker Quentin Blumenroeder, had to be protected. Two choices were available to the Dom Rémi Carré association, behind this project, as well as to the town, owner of the instrument: either to leave it in its case, silent for many years, or to find it a new home where it could continue to play. The latter solution immediately won out and a team of volunteers was quickly formed. In a single day, the instrument was dismantled and prepared for a long journey. It is this unique adventure that Gilles Perrin's photos recount, from the dismantling to the awakening of the organ... 800 km away!

On November 16, 2024, after crossing France from west to east, the organ of the Saint-Amant-de-Boixe abbey arrived in Strasbourg, where it would be welcomed and protected for several years in the Sainte-Aurélie church. The team of volunteers who dismantled the instrument the day before in Charente was replaced by an equally motivated Alsatian team, ready to follow organ maker Quentin Blumenroeder as he hoisted the case, the windchest, the bellows and all the pipes up to the gallery. Within two days, the first sounds could be heard and a dialogue began on the same pitch between the newcomer and the Andreas Silbermann organ that has reigned in the church for three centuries.

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PHOTOGRAPHS – **GILLES PERRIN**

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