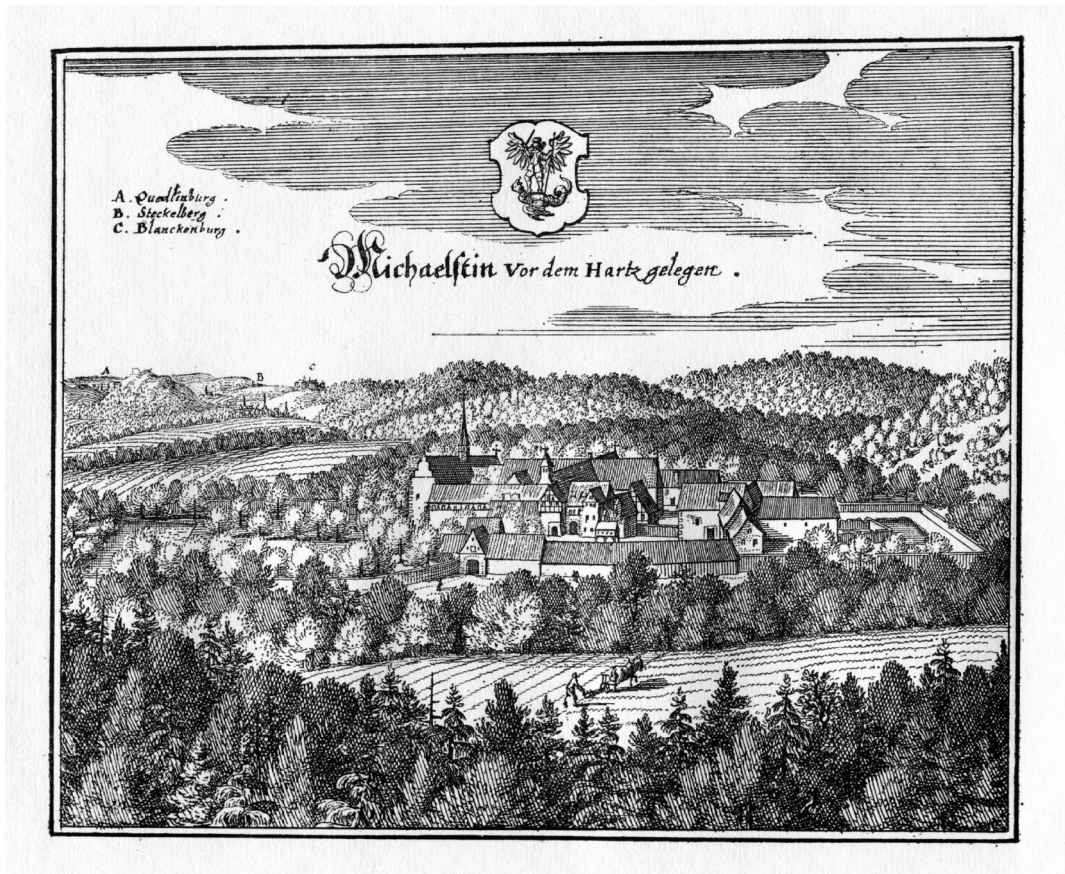


## History

Some 870 years ago, a group of Cistercian monks settled in a valley just outside Blankenburg, in the Harz region. Life was hard at first, but over time the abbey came to be an economic success. Donations, their vows of poverty and a life of hard work and strict self-sufficiency brought the cloisters an abundance of worldly goods. In 1543, the last Catholic abbot stepped down from his position and the Counts of Blankenburg took over the monastery. They set up a monastery school which remained there after it was taken over by the Dukes of Brunswick (Braunschweig). At the start of the 18th century, Duke Louis Rudolph commissioned extensive construction work and set up a seminary. Until well into the 20th century, the old abbey was only used for agricultural purposes, even after the estate was taken over by various legal entities after the land reform.



Over nearly 50 years, the abbey has developed into a place of cultural diversity featuring nature, the history of the monastery and music. Whether you visit a concert, the museum or one of the many events, you will always find new, colourful sides to Michaelstein. This is the home of the Saxony-Anhalt Music Academy and Institute of Performance Practice.



## The Museum



Today the historical cloister is used as a museum which includes the historical rooms, the monastic gardens and the interactive music exhibition „KlangZeitRaum“ (SoundsTimeSpace). The museum is part of the Saxony-Anhalt Cultural Foundation.

### *Cloister rooms:*

This was the innermost heart of the old abbey and is at the centre of the monastery. The arrangement of the areas where the choir monks and lay brothers worked and lived on the ground floor of the cloister is largely in line with the ideal plan of a Cistercian abbey.

Thanks to extensive refurbishment and construction in recent times, these rooms from the late Romanesque and Gothic eras have been well preserved.

### *Monastic gardens:*

Two monastic gardens with all kinds of highly prized plants attract visitors and have been part of the Saxony-Anhalt “Garden Dreams” network since 2018. Both gardens are modelled on medieval plans and records.

Children can explore the garden areas with Brother Grabolin, who has mysterious, unusual and fantastical stories to tell about vegetables, fruit and medicinal plants.

*Interactive music exhibition KlangZeitRaum:*

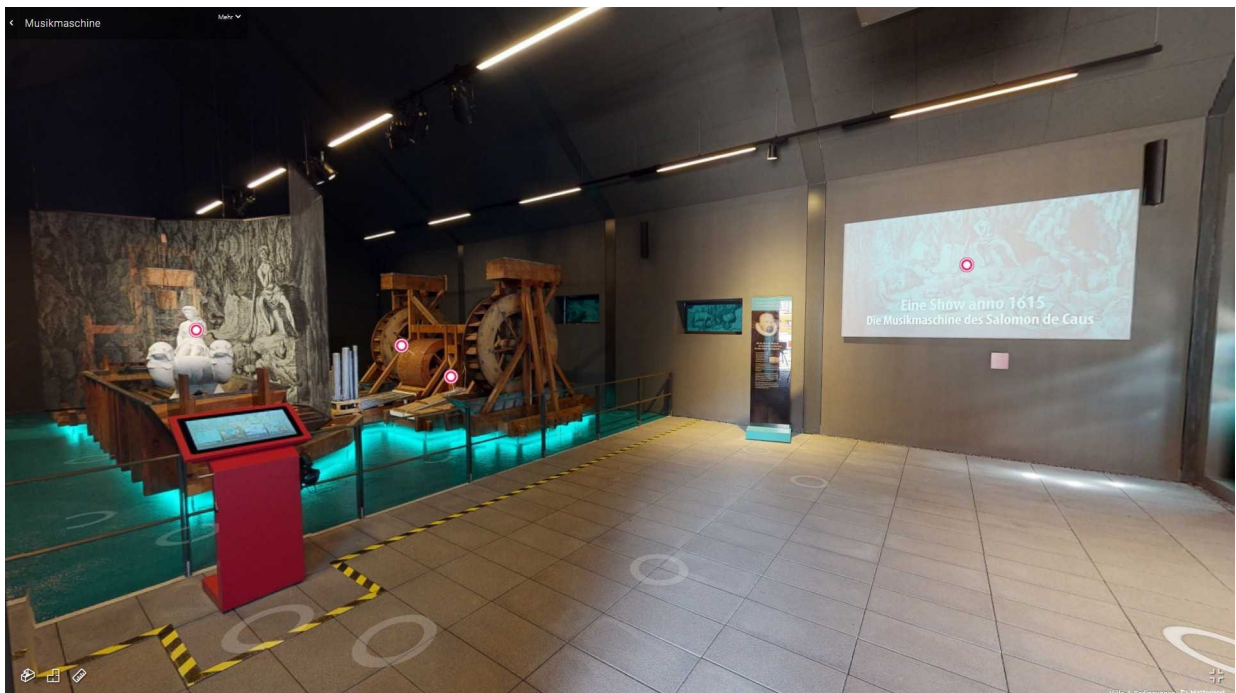
Over time, however, the sounds and musical instruments have changed. The music exhibition KLANG - ZEIT - RAUM ("sound - space - time") explores this change based on instruments spanning four centuries in Europe.

Children, too, can discover the secrets of music at the exhibition as they follow in the footsteps of Michel, a very musical cat.

*A show that takes you back to the year 1615 - The music machine of Salomon de Caus:*

Driven by a water wheel, played with a pinned barrel and featuring a moving nymph; entertaining musical devices with animatronic figures have always drawn a crowd. Originally, Salomon de Caus, the engineer and landscape architect, invented a music machine for the Heidelberg castle gardens in the early 17th century. But until 1998 it remained an idea.

<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=eHS69fhN51L>



## Construction of the virtual twin

In the summer of 2020 the whole museum were scanned to create a possibility for visitors to see the museum under the theme #closedbutopen. The guests are able to walk through all three areas of the museum in the 3D model by their own or in a guided tour.

The grand opening of the virtual museum was in december 2020.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3klbe\\_ymF7I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3klbe_ymF7I)

Until then it was been worked on expert videos which were embed in the virtual space to give more information to the visitors.

Since december more then 7000 visitors used the link on the homepage to see the digital twin of museum cloister Michaelstein.

<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=rMSCenE2bEe>

## Description of the virtual museum

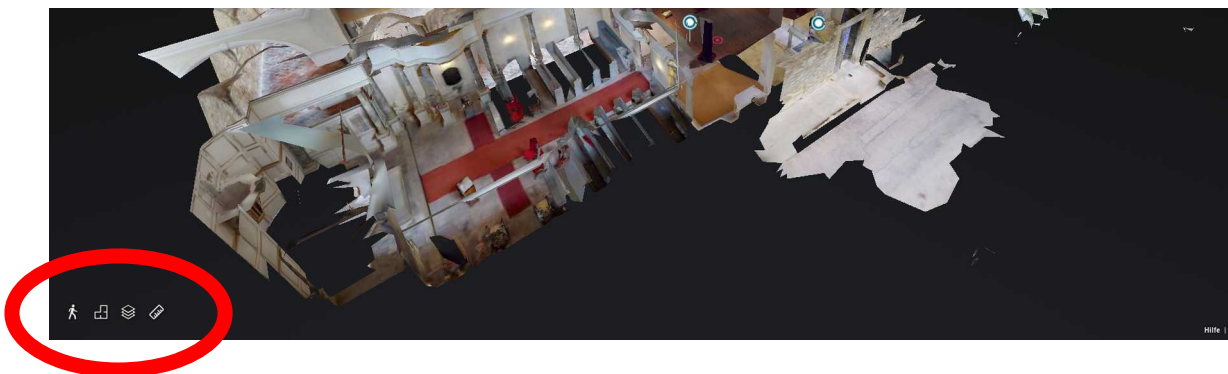
By the help of the cursor or the arrow keys of the keyboard of the computer the visitor move from scan point to scan point.

The scan points are the points were the camera was placed for the scan to create an 3D Model.

In the vegetable and herb garden, we first had to get help with 360 ° views. The rescan, which makes it possible to experience the gardens as a 3D model, will take place in the summer of this

year, so a visit to our website is worthwhile.

Down in the left corner of the screen you find four symbols.



- The first symbol (from the left) is the dollhouse function. In this view you are able to see a cross-section through the both floors of Michaelstein.





- The symbol right next to the dollhouse is the floor plan. It helps to get an overview of the museum Michaelstein. You can easily access the different rooms via the floor plan. To do this, move the cursor to the desired room and with one click you will be beamed in it.
- With the third symbol you are able to choose the different floors.
- The last symbol will help you to measure the different rooms.

*In the hole space of the digital museum you can find different coloured dots.*

- Yellow dots: text with general information to the programme and events of Michaelstein.
- Blue dots: expert videos.
  - In the cloister with historical facts to Michaelstein and Cistercian monks told by the head of the museum Simon Sosnitz
  - In the music exhibition the content of the videos was given by one of the curators Ms. Monika Lustig.
- Magenta dots: different music example.
- Brown dots: the digitized hands-on-stationen. Further to the hands-on-stations there are two search-puzzles for the children. Down in the cloister brother Grabolin hide in five places. Up in the music exhibition on different hands-on-stations with the tomcat Michel the kids find numbers and letters. If they posed in the right order you get a password. The password can be send to us and the children get a little present.

## Guided Tours

These tours can be booked by groups or by individual visitors. The individual guest find the link to the accounting system on the homepage [www.michaelstein.de](http://www.michaelstein.de) under the tab with the calendery of events. Groups can be call Ms. Susann Dreßler to arrange an appointment.

After the booking a email will be generated with a link to the online meetingroom of the museum. The museum use WebEx. Then the guets will be welcome in the digital space and the tour guide will share his screen. Every tour last 45 minutes. Back in the meetingroom, the guide answers the questions of the visitors.

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