

GROUP ORGAN INSTRUCTION

General Course Objectives

1. To develop the basic organ playing skills to play for a church service in a satisfactory manner.
2. To develop the ability to choose appropriate music for worship.

Skills Objectives

1. To know the basic principles of organ registration.
2. To develop fluency in manual technique, including finger independence, direct fingering, redistribution of the inner parts, finger crossing, substitution, finger and thumb glissando.
3. To develop fluency in pedal technique, including toe-toe pedaling, heel and toe pedaling, pedal crossing, pedal glissando, substitution.
4. To develop the ability to play simple pedal parts in combination with elementary manual parts.
5. To be able to solve problems of repeated notes, phrasing, and tempo in three- and four-part hymns and prelude music.
6. To develop efficient practice techniques.
7. To be able to choose appropriate music for a worship service.

Weekly Outline

1st Week

1. Course introduction - objectives.
2. Organ shoes.
3. Introduction to the organ console.
4. Nature of organ tone.(compare piano and organ tone).
5. Attack and release.
6. Touch - legato and detached touches.
7. finger independence.
8. Pedal technique position at the organ, position of the feet, ankle motion, playing white-note pedals with toes.
9. Materials needed for this course.

2nd Week

1. Review.
2. Fingering techniques: direct fingering, finger crossing, finger substitution.
3. Practice techniques.
4. Pedal techniques - Playing pedals with toes using ankle motion, playing half-steps with toes up and down the pedalboard, develop a sense of placement for stepwise movement for white-note pedals and for white and black pedals (half-steps), be able to do without looking.
5. Assign a simple trio from *Nine Hymn Studies* by D. Kim Croft.

3rd Week

1. Review.
2. Organ registration - pitches of stops (meaning and application).pipe organ components.
3. Review fingering techniques.

4. Two-part manual playing, emphasize the idea of line, repeated notes, assign a short piece for this purpose.
5. Pedal techniques - exercises using black pedals (finding twos and threes); measuring intervals with the heel and arch together, with the heels together, with the knees together.
6. Assign a trio from *Nine Hymn Studies* by D. Kim Croft.

4th Week

1. Review.
2. Fingering techniques - finger glissando, thumb glissando, redistribution of the inner parts.
3. Pedal technique - toe-toe pedaling continued, emphasize ankle motion and position; playing and measuring 2nds, 3rds, 4ths, 5ths, 6ths, 7ths, and octaves; exercises in finding and playing black pedals; toe and heel playing (use black pedals with adjacent white pedals).
4. Two-part manual playing - continue to emphasize the concepts of line, phrasing, and repeated notes.
5. Organ Registration: Families of organ tone - principal family.
6. Polish trios from previous weeks.

5th week

1. Review fingering techniques.
2. Reemphasize thumb glissando and redistribution of the inner parts.
3. Pedaling - toe-toe pedaling (always emphasize good position of the feet and ankle motion), exercises in playing 2nds, 3rds, 4ths in different parts of the pedalboard on both black and white pedals; heel-toe pedaling on white pedals.
4. Two-part manual playing - always emphasize the concepts of line, phrasing and repeated notes.
5. Coordination of hands and feet - left hand and pedal exercises, right hand and pedal exercises, simple trios.
6. Organ registration - review principal family and discuss flute and string families, as well as hybrids.
7. Assign a new trio from *Nine Hymn Studies* by D. Kim Croft.

6th Week

1. Review.
2. Summary of fingering techniques.
3. Review of repeated notes, exercises in marking repeated notes.
4. Two-part manual playing--emphasize the playing of lines, phrasing, etc.
5. Pedaling. (a) measuring thirds up and down the pedalboard on white notes. (b) Review previous concepts of pedaling. (c) heel-toe pedaling on white notes continuation. (d) crossing of feet. (e) substitution.
6. Organ registration. (a) review (b) families of organ tone--reed family.
7. Hymn playing introduction--*Hymn Studies for Organists (Belnap)* p. 10, Learning each voice part.
8. Coordination of Hands and Feet. (a) L.H. and pedal (b) R.H. and pedal. (c) simple trios. (4) *Easy Organ Hymn Settings (Don Cook)* p. 12.

7th Week

1. Review.
2. Manual Playing (a) Hand parts (omit pedal) to *Easy Organ Hymn Settings* by Don Cook. (b) Maintain fingering techniques.
3. Pedaling (a) Review and maintain previous concepts. (b) glissando--black to black, black to white.
4. Organ Registration: Types of Organ Registration--Chorus Registration.

5. Coordination of hands and feet. (a) L.H. and pedal. (b) R.H. and pedal. (c) Simple trio settings (d) *Easy Organ Hymn Settings* by Don Cook. 5. Hymn Playing--Redeemer of Israel from *Hymn Studies for Organists* by Belnap, pp. 11, 12, 13.

8th Week

1. Review. 2. Manual technique - simple three-part manual pieces, two-part manual playing using the hand parts to *Easy Organ Hymn Settings* by Don Cook. 3. Pedaling - review previous exercises, playing thirds with the heel and toe of one foot, measuring 4ths up and down the pedalboard. 4. Coordination of hands and feet - left hand and pedal right hand and pedal, easy trios, use a trio from *Easy Organ Hymn Settings* by Don Cook. 5. Organ registration: Solo and accompaniment registrations. 6. Hymn Playing: use Redeemer of Israel from *Hymn Studies for Organists* by Parley Belnap. 7. Selecting appropriate music for the worship service. 8. Sight-reading - sight-read individual parts to hymns.

9th Week

1. Review. 2. Manual techniques. "Come unto Jesus" (Hymn Studies). Two-part manual playing. Hand parts (omit pedal) to *Easy Organ Hymn Settings* by Don Cook. 3. Pedaling. Review and maintain previous pedal exercises a few each day. Review pedal crossings, glissandos. Pedal part to "Come unto Jesus." 4. Coordination of hands and feet. L.H. and pedal, R.H. and pedal, Easy trio settings, *Easy Organ Hymn Settings* by Don Cook and Kim Croft. 5. Organ registration. Types of organ registration: duo and trio registration. 6. Hymn Playing *Hymn Studies for Organists* (Belnap) "Redeemer of Israel" pp. 7. Selecting appropriate music for the worship service. 8. Sight-read individual parts to hymns--one part at a time.

10th Week

1. Review. 2. Manual Technique. 3-part playing from "Come unto Jesus" from *Hymn Studies for Organists* (Belnap). Two-part manual playing from *Easy Hymn Settings* by Don Cook (omit pedal). 3. Pedaling. Review measuring 3rds up and down the pedalboard. Play pedal parts in *Easy Hymn Settings*. Review and maintain exercises. Pedal part to "Come unto Jesus." 4. Coordination of hands and feet. *Easy Organ Hymn Settings*). 5. Organ Registration--making the registration fit the music. 6. Hymn Playing. "Come unto Jesus" (Hymn Studies). 7. Choose and prepare a prelude for a worship service. 8. Sight-read individual parts to hymns.

11th Week

1. Summary. 2. Manual technique. Review fingering techniques. Manual parts to "Come Follow Me" *Hymn Studies for Organists* (Belnap). 3.

Pedaling. Pedal part to "Come Follow Me" (*Hymn Studies*). Review a few other pedal exercises. 4. Coordination of hands and feet. "Come Follow Me," "Come unto Jesus," Prelude. 5. Organ Registration. Making the registration fit the music. 6. Hymn Playing. Polish "Redeemer of Israel." Polish "Come unto Jesus." "Come, Follow Me." 7. Polish prelude for a worship service. 8. Sight-read individual lines to hymns.

12th Week

1. Summary and review. 2. Students play their hymns for each other with the teacher conducting. 3. Where can I go from here? (a) Select a private teacher and continue studying. (b) Enroll in BYU's Organ Certification Program and select a teacher to help. (c) Practice on your own, selecting and maintaining what you have just learned. (d) Select a new hymn from *Hymn Studies for Organists*, "How Gentle God's Commands," and perfect it. (e) Prepare to play your hymns in a church service.