

# PLANS FOR CONTINUED ORGAN TRAINING

*Those with a plan for developing their organ playing skills can offer a very special form of service through music throughout their lifetime. Some of the best ways to develop those skills are described below. Check the boxes next to ways that might interest you. When the time is right, choose the way that works for you, and dig in!*

- New Ward Organist** (free online, 8 videos). A free course designed to help pianists in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints adapt their skills to the organ as soon as possible. Consists of seven videos, handouts, and a supplementary packet). Visit [organ.byu.edu/the-new-ward-organist](http://organ.byu.edu/the-new-ward-organist)
- Private lessons** (\$). There is no better way to learn music than meeting regularly with a trusted personal mentor, either in person or online. Finding an organ teacher who is effective in helping you reach your goals and whose fees are within your budget is worth the effort. Visit [organ.byu.edu/finding-an-organ-teacher/](http://organ.byu.edu/finding-an-organ-teacher/) or check with your local AGO chapter (see below). Online lessons (via Facetime, Zoom, Skype, Collabra, etc.) require a high-speed Internet connection and a webcam at the organ.
- BYU Independent Study organ courses** (3 course types: free [Level 1-2 only], certificate [\$150], or college credit [more \$]). A variety of organ courses designed to provide motivation and instruction for organists to improve their skills by working toward specific goals. Each of the six courses or levels covers hymn playing, organ technique, organ pieces, music theory, transposition, sight-reading, and choir accompaniment as appropriate to the level. Traditional instruction is offered through books and computer lessons, while performance instruction is coordinated with [qualified organ instructors](http://organ.byu.edu/orgcert.pdf) in the vicinity of the student. Visit [organ.byu.edu/orgcert.pdf](http://organ.byu.edu/orgcert.pdf)
- OrganTutor** (\$, OrganTutor is also used in the BYU Independent Study organ courses, and can be used in private and group lessons). 62 online lessons for the pianist on the basics of classical or traditional sacred organ playing. The OrganTutor Online Tutorial and Workbook contain technical and musical studies for classical or church organists of any denomination. They are designed to be used together, but are available separately. Subscriptions to use the online tutorial on tablets, smartphones, laptops, or desktops are available for 6 months (\$30) or 3 years (50). The workbook is available in hard copy or pdf. Visit [organtutor.byu.edu](http://organtutor.byu.edu) or [organ.byu.edu/usingorgantutor.pdf](http://organ.byu.edu/usingorgantutor.pdf)
- BYU Organ Workshop** (\$, early August in Provo and online). An intensive four-day workshop for organists of all levels. Primarily for those ages 18+. Visit [organ.byu.edu/orgcert.pdf](http://organ.byu.edu/orgcert.pdf) and [organworkshop.byu.edu](http://organworkshop.byu.edu)
- BYU Musicians' Summerfestival** (\$, mid-June in Provo). A seven-day event where young musicians ages 14-18 can receive daily organ lessons, attend concerts, learn music theory, enjoy social events, and more. Visit [organ.byu.edu/orgcert.pdf](http://organ.byu.edu/orgcert.pdf) and [summerfestival.byu.edu](http://summerfestival.byu.edu)
- BYU Online Training\*** (free, throughout the year). October through May. For beginning organists: Monthly first Thursday. For music theory: monthly second Thursday. For trained organists: alternate months third Thursday. Details: [organ.byu.edu/online-training-sessions](http://organ.byu.edu/online-training-sessions)
- BYU Traveling Organ Workshops\*** (free, throughout the year). Usually multi-stake events (other formats possible), directed by the BYU organ faculty in coordination with a local host stake and a local coordinator. Visit [organ.byu.edu/workshops](http://organ.byu.edu/workshops) or contact [organ@byu.edu](mailto:organ@byu.edu)
- Ward- or Stake-sponsored organist training** (free). Many stakes and wards conduct some form of organ training. Contact your ward or stake music chairpersons or priesthood leaders. Multi-stake organ workshops can be arranged by contacting [organ@byu.edu](mailto:organ@byu.edu) at the BYU School of Music (see BYU Traveling Organ Workshops above).
- BYU Organ Workshops Facebook page** (free). Offers continued online collaboration between workshop instructors and group members. Questions and answers, and miscellaneous posts about workshop-related topics. [facebook.com/groups/byuorganworkshops](https://facebook.com/groups/byuorganworkshops). Other interesting groups can be found in the "Internet Resources for Organists" handout.
- American Guild of Organists** (AGO) membership and activity (\$ annual membership.) Local chapters of the American Guild of Organists meet monthly to share interests and skills, and there is a monthly magazine. The regional and national organization also conducts annual conventions. Visit [agohq.org/membership/membership-overview](http://agohq.org/membership/membership-overview)

\*Fully funded by Marjorie Volkel endowment.



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