

# Using OrganTutor in Private and Group Instruction

*OrganTutor Organ 101* helps teach basic organ skills to the pianist. It serves like a “teaching assistant” that the student can call on between lessons to demonstrate and describe manual and pedal techniques and teach organ registration, hymn playing, and other general concepts. This frees up the live instructor to do what he/she does best: hear and see the student play, and then provide the kind of feedback and direction that only a human can offer.

*OrganTutor* uses a new approach to help teach an old subject – it is an interactive multimedia organ tutorial:

- INTERACTIVE. OrganTutor responds to information provided by the user. Its responses are customized to user needs.
- MULTIMEDIA. OrganTutor uses various types of media: text, photographs, drawings, sound, and video.
- ORGAN TUTORIAL. This “Tutor” was created as an aid to – not a replacement for – the live organ instructor.

**Students** can come to their lessons or classes better prepared and with more confidence with the help of *OrganTutor*:

- 62 complete lessons
- Over 140 video demonstrations and 250 audio examples (the audio examples play through computer’s speakers)
- Hundreds of photographs and illustrations
- Self testing: Quick Reviews and Lesson Tests with feedback
- Hundreds of hypertext links and pop-up definitions
- Used in college organ courses by over 6500 students since 1996
- Written by Dr. Don Cook ([doncook@byu.edu](mailto:doncook@byu.edu)), a veteran university organ professor and church organist
- Useful as a complete course or as a reference tool
- Runs through a standard web browser on PC or Mac, on tablets, or smartphones (high-speed Internet required)
- Easy to use, with convenient point-and-click operation

Students can work systematically through all 62 lessons by following the Weekly Preparation Guide. *OrganTutor Organ 101* teaches organ registration, hymn playing, and other general concepts in “study lessons.” Lesson Objectives are provided for note taking to help focus on the most important points of each study lesson. It also offers specific direction in legato manual and pedal technique and in hymn playing projects. Representative exercises and projects are modeled in “Video Demonstrations” which, along with the helpful hints in the workbook, lead to thorough learning of the techniques and projects.

Students may also use *OrganTutor* as a practical reference on specific topics. The lessons are grouped under six units, each of which contains a series of lessons on that topic that can be studied as needed or in order:

- General Concepts
- Manual Technique
- Pedal Technique
- Organ Registration
- Hymn Playing
- Projects

**Teachers** can use *OrganTutor* as a sort of “teaching assistant” by sending the student from each organ lesson with an assignment, which may include selected lessons in one or more of the units. For example, an assignment from Stage 3 of the Weekly Preparation Guide might include the following lessons:

- Finger substitution (exercises with video demonstrations in the Manual Technique unit)
- Group 4: Single Foot on Naturals & Natural/Sharp Combinations (exercises with video demo’s in the Pedal Technique unit)
- Organ Types and Components (a study lesson in the Organ Registration unit)
- Hymn Playing: Introduction (a study lesson in the Hymn Playing unit)

Working through these lessons at his or her own pace, the student will be offered the following learning aids to help deepen their learning in preparation for the next organ lesson:

- Video demonstrations and written instructions for the finger substitution and pedal technique exercises
- A helpful list of “Do’s and Don’ts” for those exercises
- Photographs and textual descriptions on Organ Types and Components
- Score examples, audio examples, and textual descriptions on the basics of hymn playing
- Quick Review questions and a Lesson Test in each study lesson to help the student assess his or her understanding of the concept

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[organtutor.byu.edu](http://organtutor.byu.edu)

**The OrganTutor Workbook** \$23.00 + s/h (300-pages), \$9.50 in pdf format, digital delivery.

Discounts for the workbook (20%) are available for organ or piano teachers. Email [doncook@byu.edu](mailto:doncook@byu.edu).

**OrganTutor Online Tutorial** subscription \$30 (6 months) or \$50 (3 years) (no discounts)

(or email [organ@byu.edu](mailto:organ@byu.edu) for a free 2-week subscription code).

For lesson plans, courses, and other supporting materials, visit the Organ Study at BYU website [organ.byu.edu](http://organ.byu.edu)