

# PREPARATORY LEVEL OPTION

The Preparatory Level Option offers training for pianists in the most basic skills needed in classical or sacred organ playing. It is designed to be learned, practiced, and completed during the BYU Organ Workshop, while still allowing attendance at the Level One organ instruction and hymn playing instruction classes. As an alternative, the level may be prepared during the year and completed either during the Workshop or during the year.

The Preparatory Level requires playing only one easy three-part piece in legato style, applying the skills described below. The piece may be a three-part hymn setting, an organ piece, or an organ arrangement. Choose the piece from one of the following options (listed below from easier to more difficult):

1. Any of the single-page pieces in  
Croft, D. Kim. *Nine Hymn Studies*. Orem, UT: Pioneer (Jackman Music), 1986.
2. The setting of Lawrence Lyon's tune, "Saints, Behold How Great Jehovah," in  
Cook, Don. *The OrganTutor Workbook*. Spanish Fork, UT: Ard, any edition.
3. Any one of the three Hymn Project 1 options in *The OrganTutor Workbook* (see #2 above).
4. Any hymn setting (preferably one of the easier ones near the front of the book), in  
Cook, Don. *Easy Organ Hymn Settings*. Orem, UT: Jackman Music, 1992.
5. Any simple three-part hymn setting, organ piece, or organ arrangement in legato style with a single-line part for the right hand, one for the left hand, and one for the pedal.

Demonstrate the following skills as you play your selected piece (each box should be initialed by an instructor):

1.  **Apply the three organ listening skills**
  - a. Perfect legato
  - b. Precise releases (clearly articulated repeated notes, rests accurately observed)
  - c. Independence of line
2.  **Use the following elements of good legato pedal technique.** Wearing shoes adequate for organ playing is recommended.
  - a. Position the bench and yourself properly at the console
  - b. Tip (rock) the feet slightly inward, playing just forward of the ball of the foot (sharp keys) or on the ball of the foot (natural keys)
  - c. Use ankle motion, not knee motion, when playing pedal keys
  - d. Use both feet to play the pedal line, keeping the knees reasonably together
  - e. Use contact between the feet to span the intervals of a second, third, or fourth
  - f. Keep the eyes up on the music when passing off the piece

Play the following steps in order:

1.  **INDIVIDUAL PARTS**
  - a. Be able to play either the right-hand or left-hand part on either the Great or the Swell
  - b. Play the bass part alone in the pedals
2.  **TWO-PART COMBINATIONS.**
  - a. Play both manual parts on the Great or split between manuals (as specified)
  - b. Play the right-hand part on one manual in combination with the pedal part
  - c. Play the left-hand part on one manual in combination with the pedal part
3.  **ALL THREE PARTS**

Play all three parts together, with both hands on the Great or split between manuals (or as specified)

Unless the composer or arranger specifies otherwise, you might use the following stop combination or its equivalent:

Great: Principal 8', Octave 4' (these stops may also be called Diapason, Prestant)

Swell: Flute 8', Flute 4' (these stops may be called Bourdon, Gedeckt, Stopped Diapason, Rohrflöte, Spitzflöte)

Pedal: Flute 16', Flute 8' (these stops may be called Subbass, Lieblich Gedeckt, Bourdon, Gedackt, Stopped Diapason, Rohrflöte, Spitzflöte)

This level may be completed during the BYU Organ Workshop or during the year.

During the Workshop, auditions can occur at one of the following times:

1. during Preparatory Level Supervised Practice (schedule, no fee)
2. private organ instruction (schedule, fee)
3. supervised practice (schedule, no fee)

During the year, the preparatory level may be completed in one of the following ways:

1. a private lesson with any instructor who has taught at the BYU Organ Workshop (fee as arranged)
2. a private lesson with an instructor (fee as arranged) approved by the BYU organ faculty. This instructor should have a degree in organ. Contact Don Cook (doncook@byu.edu) or Neil Harmon (neil\_harmon@byu.edu)
3. a video session with a link emailed to a BYU organ faculty member or graduate student (send \$30 fee)