

PLANS FOR CONTINUING 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!

- BYU Independent Study organ course** (free, \$150 [certification] or more for college credit).
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](#) in the vicinity of the student. Visit organ.byu.edu/756-2/.
- 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 aspiring 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 or organ.byu.edu/usingorgantutor.pdf.
- Private lessons in your local area** (\$)
There is no better form of organ training than meeting periodically with a trusted personal mentor. Finding an organ teacher who is effective in helping you reach your goals and whose fees are within your budget is worth the effort. Here are some ways to find one:
 - *Word of mouth.* Ask your ward organist, stake organist, stake music chairperson, or another organist who is already studying with someone.
 - *The American Guild of Organists (AGO).* Many larger cities have a [local chapter of the AGO](#) (scroll to the bottom of that page), and the dean of the chapter can recommend the best teacher for your needs.
 - *Local college or university.* Contact the music department of nearby academic institutions. Visit agohq.org/education/academic-organ-programs/ for a partial listing.
 - *Local churches.* Many churches (especially the larger ones) employ a part- or full-time organist. Some of these can be good teachers. Ask around for references, and then contact him or her if you feel comfortable.
 - *The BYU "Finding an Organ Teacher" web page.* Visit organ.byu.edu/finding-an-organ-teacher/
- Online (Skype) lessons with a BYU Graduate (or other) instructor** (\$, high-speed Internet and webcam at the organ)
Some graduate instructors at BYU and other organ teachers are willing to conduct online lessons via Skype. Email doncook@byu.edu for contact information.
- BYU Organ Workshop** (\$, August 6-9, 2019 in Provo)
An intensive four-day workshop for organists of all levels. Primarily for those ages 18+. Visit organ.byu.edu/756-2/ and organworkshop.byu.edu
- BYU Musicians' Summerfestival** (\$, June 16-22, 2019 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/orcert.html and summerfestival.byu.edu.
- The New LDS Organist** (free online, 12 lessons/podcasts)
A free course designed to help LDS pianists adapt their skills to the organ as soon as possible. Consists of 12 audio podcasts and a free 59-page packet (instruction and simplified hymns). Visit organ.byu.edu/newldsorganist.
- LDS 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 doncook@byu.edu at the BYU School of Music.
- Membership and activity with the **American Guild of Organists** (\$ 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/