

LDS Hymn Voluntaries
David Chamberlin

“An organ piece for every hymn in the book”

Goal: Compose an interesting, not-too-difficult piece of organ music based on each of the 326 tunes in the 1985 LDS hymnal.

I have tried to write as simply as possible without sacrificing contrapuntal integrity or harmonic interest. (Foreword, Vol. 1)

What makes music interesting is what’s inside. What’s interesting to me:

- Accompaniment, counterpoint, or *ritornello* (77, 30, 98) material derived from the *cantus firmus* (hymn tune). Melody note sequence with altered rhythm or rhythmic emphasis (10, 98).
- Counterpoint – two melodies going on against (counter to) each other, especially when the counter-melody is derived from the *cantus firmus* (27, 31, 62, 201, 205).
- Canon (28, 37, 78, 81) and other contrapuntal forms – fugato (25, 74), fugue (58).
- Harmonic opportunities afforded by rhythmic augmentation (melody in double or triple-length note values) – often includes ornamentation of the *cantus firmus* (50, 56).
- Non-standard, engaging harmony (20, 72).
- Simple patterns that work in a surprising variety of ways (13, 208).