

Called to Serve

The LDS Organist

AGO Organ Workshop • Saturday, April 23, 2011
presented by Florence Hawkinson

And all this for the benefit of the church of the living God, that every man may improve upon his talent, that every man may gain other talents, yea, even an hundred fold, to be cast into the Lord's storehouse, to become common property of the whole church.

Doctrine & Covenants 82:18

Verily I say unto you, behold how great is your calling.

Doctrine & Covenants 112:55

Inspirational music is an essential part of our church meetings. *Hymns of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, pg. ix.

The ward organist provides prelude and postlude music and accompaniment for hymns at sacrament meeting and other ward meetings as requested. *Church Handbook of Instructions, Section 14.2.5.*

If you are called upon to play a church service, it is a greater honor than if you were to play a concert on the finest organ in the world...Thank God each time when you are privileged to sit before the organ console and assist in the worship of the Almighty. *Albert Schweitzer*

Standard musical elements in church meetings include: prelude and postlude music, congregational singing, special musical selections. This means that the ward organist is an active participant (leading the congregation in worship) for 20-30 minutes (25-35% of the meeting) on a weekly basis.

Therefore he becometh a great benefit to his fellow beings.

Mosiah 8:18

Some ways that we can become a great benefit to our fellow ward members:

- Create a feeling of reverence and order
- Unify congregation
- Preach the gospel
- Add interest to the meeting
- Invite the Spirit of the Lord
- Encourage others in their musical endeavors
- Be an example of cheerful service

Neglect not the gift which is in thee.

I Timothy 4:14

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightening about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others. *Marianne Williamson*

Therefore, dearly beloved brethren, let us cheerfully do all things that lie in our power. *Doctrine & Covenants 125:17*