

Registration Short Cuts
Super Saturday for Church Organists
Utah Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
April 23, 2011
Ruth Ann Hay

This class will be most helpful if

- Your organ has at least five pistons. (If you use pistons for congregational singing or for the postlude, you will want to have pistons left over after setting these suggested ones for the prelude.)
- You can solo the melody while playing a hymn.

Basic registrations for preludes

- Chorus registration as written
- Chorus registration one octave up.
- Solo the melody in the soprano range
- Solo the melody in the tenor range

Chorus registration as written

- Soprano, alto and tenor played with both hands on the same manual. Bass is played in the pedal.
- Soprano, alto, tenor, and bass can all be played with the hands on the same manual.

Chorus registration played one octave up

Soprano, alto, tenor, and bass played one octave up on the same manual.

Solo the melody in the soprano range

Melody is played alone on one manual. The alto and tenor are played together on a second manual with a softer registration. The bass is played in the pedal. If this skill has not yet been attained, it is possible to solo the melody and play only the alto and tenor as an accompaniment. To develop this skill fully, first practice the alto and tenor together on the same manual. When that can be done comfortably, add the melody then at last, add the bass.

Solo the melody in the tenor range

Melody is played alone on one manual one octave down in the tenor range. The alto and tenor are played together on a second manual with a softer registration. The bass is played in the pedal. Again, if this skill has not yet been attained, it is possible to play the melody down an octave and play only the alto and tenor as an accompaniment.

Registration Suggestions for Each Type

These are only suggestions. What works for one instrument will not be effective on another. One must use the ear and listen for the most satisfactory combinations.

Registration Type	Some Suggested Registrations		
Chorus registration	Sw: Flute 8', 4', Pedal: Soft 16', Flute 8'	All soft 8' foundations (strings, flutes, celestes coupled to the great) Pedal: soft 16' + swell to pedal	
Chorus registration one octave up	Sw: Flute 8'		
Solo melody in soprano range	Swell: Flute 8', 4', 2', 2/3' Great: String 8' Pedal: soft 16', Flute 8'	Great: Principal 8' or soft foundations 8' Swell: Strings 8' or Flute 8' Pedal: soft 16', Swell to Pedal.	Swell: soft reed Great: Soft accompaniment Pedal: soft 16', Great to Pedal.
Solo melody in tenor range	Great: Principal 8', swell to great Swell: String 8' Pedal: Soft 16', Swell to pedal.		

Example of Piston Arrangement

Piston 1

- Solo melody on foundations.

Piston 2

- Solo melody on flutes. (Swell) Can add or subtract any flute stop.
- Chorus registration (Swell)
- Chorus registration played up one octave (Swell) Take off 4'.

Piston 3

- Chorus registration (Great)

Piston 4

- Solo melody on a soft reed

Piston 5

- Solo melody in tenor range