

HYMN PLAYING SURVIVAL SKILLS: REGISTRATION

Dr. Don Cook - Utah Valley AGO Chapter Workshop - Thursday, Nov. 7, 2002

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Support the congregation with confidence, but do not overpower
2. Let the text guide the registrational plan for the hymn
3. Begin with stops from the principal chorus, especially at the 8' level
4. 8' and 4' pitches are minimum for the manual; 16' and 8' are minimum for the pedal
5. Substitute flutes for principals at 4' and 2' levels as needed to reduce sharpness
6. Use changes of registration between verses and/or between verse and chorus

BASIC HYMN REGISTRATION

MEDITATIVE HYMNS

Great: Principals 8' and 4'
Pedal: The main 16' stop, and Great to Pedal

Manual (Great)

Principal, Diapason, or Montre 8'
Octave or Prestant 4'

Pedal

Principal, Subbass, or Bourdon 16'
Great to Pedal

JUBILANT HYMNS

Add the 2' principal on the Great to the meditative hymn combination, resulting in--

Great: Principals 8' 4' and 2'

Pedal: The main 16' stop, and Great to Pedal

Manual (Great)

Principal, Diapason, or Montre 8'
Octave or Prestant 4'
Super Octave or Doublette 2'

Pedal

Principal, Subbass, or Bourdon 16'
Great to Pedal

FOR A SINGLE CHANGE OF REGISTRATION BETWEEN VERSES

MEDITATIVE HYMNS: couple the Swell chorus 8' 4' 2' to the Great

Begin with the Basic Hymn Registration for meditative hymns (see above) PLUS:

Swell: Flutes or principals 8' and 4', and flute 2', resulting in--

Geigen Diapason, Bourdon, or Gedackt 8'

Octave, Prestant, or other 4'

An available 2' stop, preferably flute

Later, between verses or between a verse and the chorus, add the Swell to Great coupler

JUBILANT HYMNS: add the Great chorus mixture

Begin with the Basic Hymn Registration for jubilant hymns (see above)

Later, between verses or between verse and refrain, add the Great chorus mixture

(usually called Mixtur[e], Fourniture, or Plein Jeu, and followed by a Roman numeral)

For yet another change, you might add a chorus reed 8' (Trumpet, Trompette, Fagott)