

Super Saturday for Church Organists

April 27, 2019

Distinctive Hymn Playing for the Veteran Organist A Workshop by Mike Carson

*And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a **distinction** in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?...What is it then?...I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.—1 Corinthians 14: 7-8, 15*

Registration Tips

- Using couplers to expand registration possibilities
- Using General and Divisional pistons for ease in changing registrations
- Chorus reeds vs. solo reeds: When to use them; when to leave them alone.
- Mutations (the fractionated stops): Their use and misuse.
- Adding a stop or changing registrations between verses or before choruses

[Music examples below are free downloads with audio recordings at www.carsonhymns.com.]

Distinctive Hymn Introductions

- #187: There Is a Green Hill Far Away
- #196: Jesus, Once of Humble Birth
- #6: Redeemer of Israel

Soloing a Counter Melody

- #98: I Need Thee Every Hour
- #158: Before Thee, Lord, I Bow My Head
- #251: Behold a Royal Army

Embellished Accompaniments for Hymn Singing

- #176: 'Tis Sweet to Sing the Matchless Love
- #181: Jesus of Nazareth
- #66: Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

Our Purpose as Organists “Inspirational music is an essential part of our church meetings. The hymns (1) invite the Spirit of the Lord, (2) create a feeling of reverence, (3) unify us as members, and (4) provide a way for us to offer praises to the Lord (The First Presidency, *Hymns*, 1985, p. ix).

In Conclusion: The conscientious organist will “challenge the intelligent interest of the congregation and charge hymn singing with thought and feeling.” ---Luther D. Reed