

Things Organists Do That Drive Me Crazy!

Preludes

1. Preludes too loud, too bright, or too fast
2. Not mentally counting the beats at phrase endings (especially in preludes)
3. No silence between prelude selections (take a breath!)
4. Fumbling with the music between prelude selections or randomly flipping through the hymnbook to find a hymn
5. Playing too loud and too fast while the priests finish breaking the bread

Congregational Hymns

6. Playing congregational hymns too fast or too slow
7. Not getting enough “organ on” for hymn singing
8. Reeds, mixtures, and mutations used inappropriately (They’re written in “red” and “fractionated” for a reason. Don’t use them unless you learn how!)
9. Jagged attacks and releases (“Bleh-bleh-bleh”)
10. Not “breathing” at phrase endings
11. Choppy bass lines at cadences
12. Not utilizing the hymn introduction to establish the tempo, volume, style, and mood of the first verse
13. Not playing the entire hymn for the introduction on unfamiliar hymns
14. Never singing the verses printed below the music (mostly music director’s fault)
15. Not using all of the sacramental hymns in the hymnal (mostly music director’s fault)
16. Depriving the congregation of singing some of the lesser-known hymns (music director)

Bonus Blubbers

Using the informal terms: “song” instead of “hymn”; “program” instead of “service”; “page number” instead of “hymn number”; “chorister” instead of “music director”; “musical number” instead of “musical selection.” I can tolerate people using the term “rest hymn,” but it is officially an “intermediate hymn.”