

# Chorus Registration

## What is chorus registration?

3 types of organ registration:

1-Solo & Accompaniment (Clear melodic solo line, hands played on two different manuals, pedal is harmonic in nature)

2-Duo/Trio (2 or 3 single melodic lines, pedal is often melodic in nature)

3-Chorus (ensemble, group)

Manual parts that are equal in importance.

Interwoven parts. A melody line would be difficult to solo out.

Vertical chords or a layered texture

There is not a clear melodic line (if there is, it is equal in prominence)

Hymns in "normal" arrangement (SAT on one manual--usually the Great, B in the pedals)

## What types of organ music use chorus registration?

Any music that indicates or implies manual parts are to be played on the same manual.

Examples include:

Bach preludes, fugues, toccatas; Mendelssohn Sonatas (unless otherwise indicated in the score); Brahms chorale preludes; hymns in normal arrangement; prelude and postlude arrangements where both hands are played on the same manual.

The accompaniment part of Solo & Accompaniment uses chorus registration guidelines.

## How do I combine stops to create an appropriate sound using chorus registration?

1-Start with an 8' foundation stop (no reeds yet) in the manual and 16' stop in the pedal.

2-Add a 4' stop in the manuals and an 8' stop in the pedals. (Exceptions: softer sounds that require just a single 8' or combined 8' stops in the manuals. The pedal would still have 16' and 8' stops.)

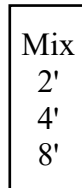
Possible registrations:

Manuals = 8' flute/4' flute OR 8' principal /4' flute OR 8' principal/4' principal

Pedals = 16 flute/8' flute OR 16' principal/8' flute OR 16' principal/8' principal

3-When adding stops beyond #2 (above), there are two approaches.

Build upward by adding higher pitched family stops to achieve a sound that is clear, bright, or brilliant (starting with 8', add '4, then 2', then Mixture, etc). Use only one stop of each pitch (one 8', one 4', one 2', etc). Try a flute chorus (8'/4'/2' flutes) or a principal chorus (8'/4'/2' principals).



Build outward by creating a pyramid of stops to achieve a sound that is warm, rich, and deep (have equal or more 8' stops, than 4' stops, etc.).



4-Avoid gaps in pitches (Do not use an 8' and 2' principal without a 4' principal.)

Also avoid celestes, tremulants, and soft stops that add very little to the chorus chosen.

## How can chorus registration be used in a worship service, for hymns, prelude and postlude?

Use chorus registration for registering a hymn when it will be played in the normal arrangement. Not all chorus registrations are appropriate for accompanying congregation singing.

## SOME TYPICAL CHORUS REGISTRATIONS (From OrganTutor Workbook, Don Cook)

- (mp): 8' flute, 4' flute
- (mf): 8' principal, 4' flute (SMALLEST CONGREGATION ACCOMPANIMENT)
- (mf): 8' principal, 4' principal
- (mf-f): 8' principal, 4' principal, 2' principal
- (f): 8' principal, 4' principal, 2' principal, mixture
- (ff): 8' principal, 4' principal, 2 2/3' principal, 2' principal, mixture, 8' reed
- (fff): 16' flute, 8' principal, 4' principal, 2 2/3' principal, 2' principal, mixture, 8' reed, 4' reed

## Registration Examples (From The New Ward Organist packet, page 14)

A typical registration for a **meditative hymn**:

Great: Principals 8' & 4'

Pedal: Principals 16' & 8' (or Principal 16', Great to Pedal)

Another effective approach is to substitute a flute for a principal at the highest pitch in the manual and pedal, respectively. This creates a more subdued tone.

Great: Principal 8', Flute 4'

Pedal: Principal 16' Flute 8' (or Principal 16', Great to Pedal)

A typical registration for a **jubilant hymn**:

Great: Principals 8', 4', 2'

Pedal: Principals 16', 8', 4' (or Principal 16', Great to Pedal)

Here is the same registration with the mixtures added to the Great and Pedal. The mixtures add brilliance to the tone.

Great: Principals 8', 4', 2', Mixture

Pedal: Principals 16', 8', 4', Mixture (or Principal 16', Great to Pedal)

Resources:

OrganTutor Organ 101:

<https://www.ardpublications.com/otw.html>

The New Ward Organist Packet:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h4D-9A3Hsp1rBcQd2rVm64g5dF81f2kn/view>

Primary Songs for Ward and Temple Organists, Mike Carson:

<https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/title/primary-songs-for-ward-and-temple-organists-digital-sheet-music/21454037>

Manual-Only Hymns for Organ:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/bc/content/shared/english/pdf/callings/music/manualonly-100602.pdf?lang=eng>

Hymns from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/music/library/hymns?lang=eng>