Mike Carson
Super Saturday, 29 April 2023

How to Give a One-time, 90-minute Organ Workshop for Ward and Stake Organists and Pianists (from Dr. Don Cook, et. al., BYU, Fall 2002)

DESIRED OUTCOME: A "trained organist" in every ward who uses organ techniques fluently and who can serve and teach other organists

What is a "trained organist"?

- Expresses the hymn text artistically
- Uses standard and creative hymn playing techniques
- Has an artistic awareness; portrays hymns as works of art.
- Understands the role of music in serving the church (service, authority, working with priesthood leadership). Conveys an attitude of service. Seeks guidance from the General Handbook (music section) and earns the trust of bishoprics, but understands that *they* oversee ward music.

Training young people

- Expend a special effort towards involving young people
- Help encourage reasonable access to organs for practice
- Spark a lasting passion to learn and to teach others

Training opportunities

- Intentional goal setting and training
- Provide tools for training (online instruction, private teacher, etc.)
- Find specific, potential trainers in your stake or ward
- Online materials and resources (organlessons.blogspot.com; organ.byu.edu)

Make connections with…

- local organ teachers
- local and national AGO (American Guild of Organists) www.uvago.org
- workshops and courses (Utah Valley Super Saturday for Church Organists – April; BYU Organ Workshop – August; monthly organ events in Utah Valley through local AGO – uvago.org

Pass around a signup sheet for those who wish to be added to the Utah Valley AGO newsletter list. (Optional: Have a column on the list to indicate if they would like a free, one-on-one, 30- to 60-minute lesson with the instructor on the organ in their chapel.)

IMPORTANT! Spark in the participants a lasting passion to learn and to teach. Use active participation—preferably hands-on or otherwise engaged.

Demonstrate Standard Hymn-Playing Techniques (Keep it simple!)

1. While attendees are seated in the chapel pews, play a jubilant hymn with an introduction and two verses, using a model principal chorus registration (with pedals) for the first verse, and adding a Mixture for the final verse. (Expression pedals open)
2. Discuss: What were your impressions? What did you notice? Was it too loud or too bright for that hymn? Would it encourage congregational singing?
3. Play a sacrament hymn, using a modified Principal Chorus (8' Flute, 4' Principal) with a Flute Chorus (8', 4', 2') coupled from the Swell. Play the pedals and open the expression pedals all the way.
4. Discuss: What were your impressions? What did you notice? Was it too loud or too bright for the mood of that hymn? Will it encourage congregational singing?

Demonstrate Stop Pitches

1. Demonstrate 8', 4', and 2' stops, alone and in combination. Explain how the 4' stops play an octave higher than the 8' stops, and so forth.
2. Demonstrate the pedal 16' stops in the Pedals and the Great to Pedal coupler.

Explain and Demonstrate the Four Families of Organ Tone

1. Flutes, Principals, Strings, and Reeds. Mention the Mixtures and Hybrid stops.
2. Demonstrate a Principal Chorus on the Great (8', 4', 2') with Pedals. Demonstrate adding Flute and/or String stops to that combination. Add a Mixture.
3. Demonstrate a Flute Chorus on the Swell (8s', 4s', and 2') and couple it to the Great. Further explain the non-speaking couplers.

Demonstrate How to Use the Expression Pedals

1. Explain how to open the expression pedals before playing the introduction to a hymn and to keep them open for congregational singing.
2. Explain the Crescendo Pedal, if applicable, and that it should be avoided by beginners.

Class Participation and "Show and Tell" to Introduce Manual Techniques

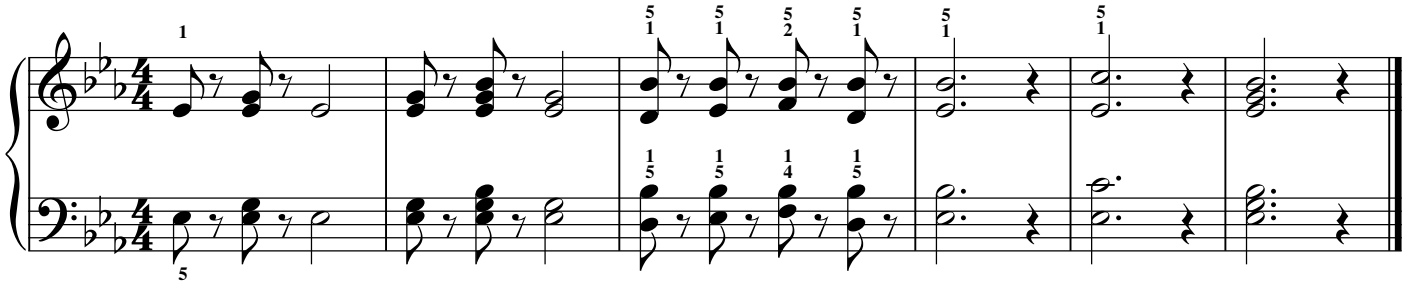
1. Ask a non-organist sight reader to play the "Attack and Release" example (see below). Then the "Legato" example, followed by the "Finger Independence" example.
2. Ask a different non-organist sight reader to play the melody line of "How Gentle God's Commands" in legato style (see below). Help them play the bracketed sections first. Then ask them to play the melody along with the left-hand part. Then to play both hands and the pedal part. Voila!--Their very first organ prelude!

Conclusion

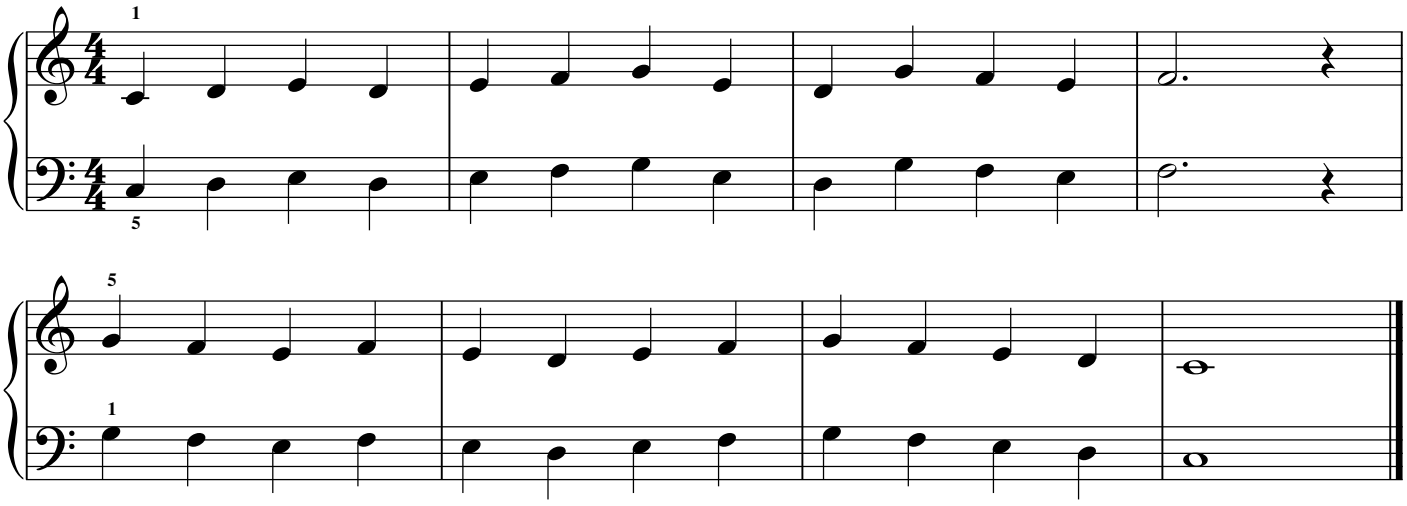
Conclude a brief Q & A, call for the signup sheet, and turn the time back to the host.

Three Organ Manual Techniques

I. Attack and Release

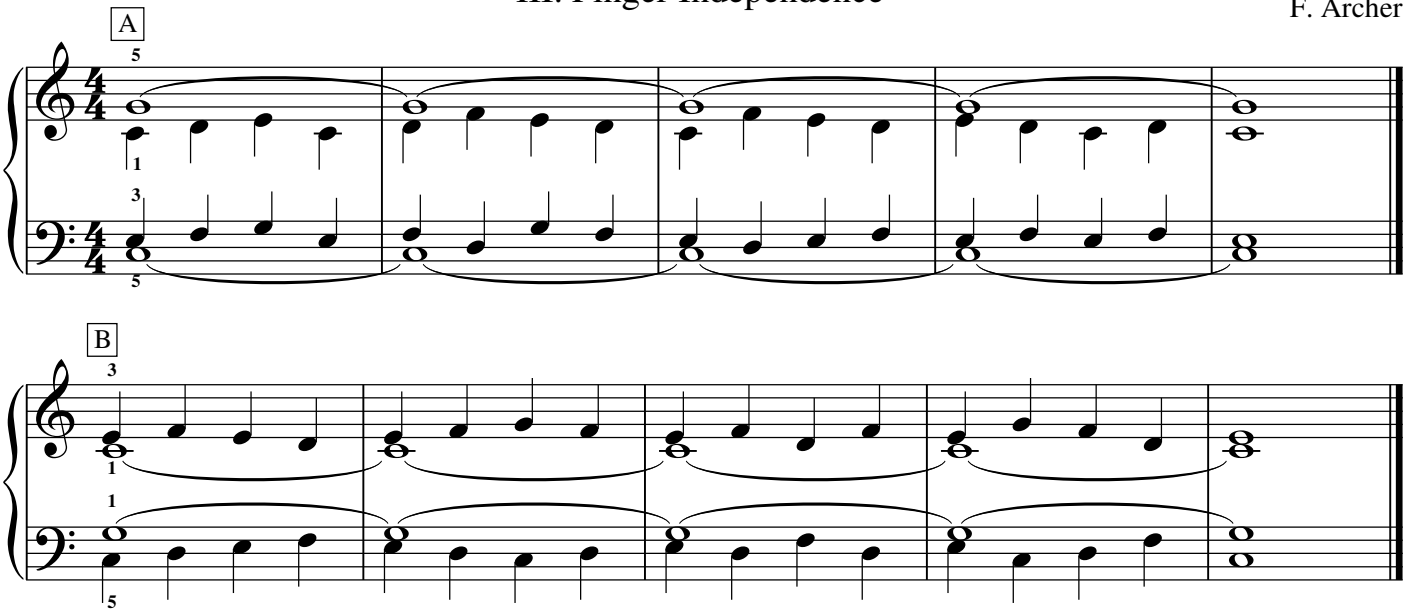


II. Legato



III. Finger Independence

F. Archer



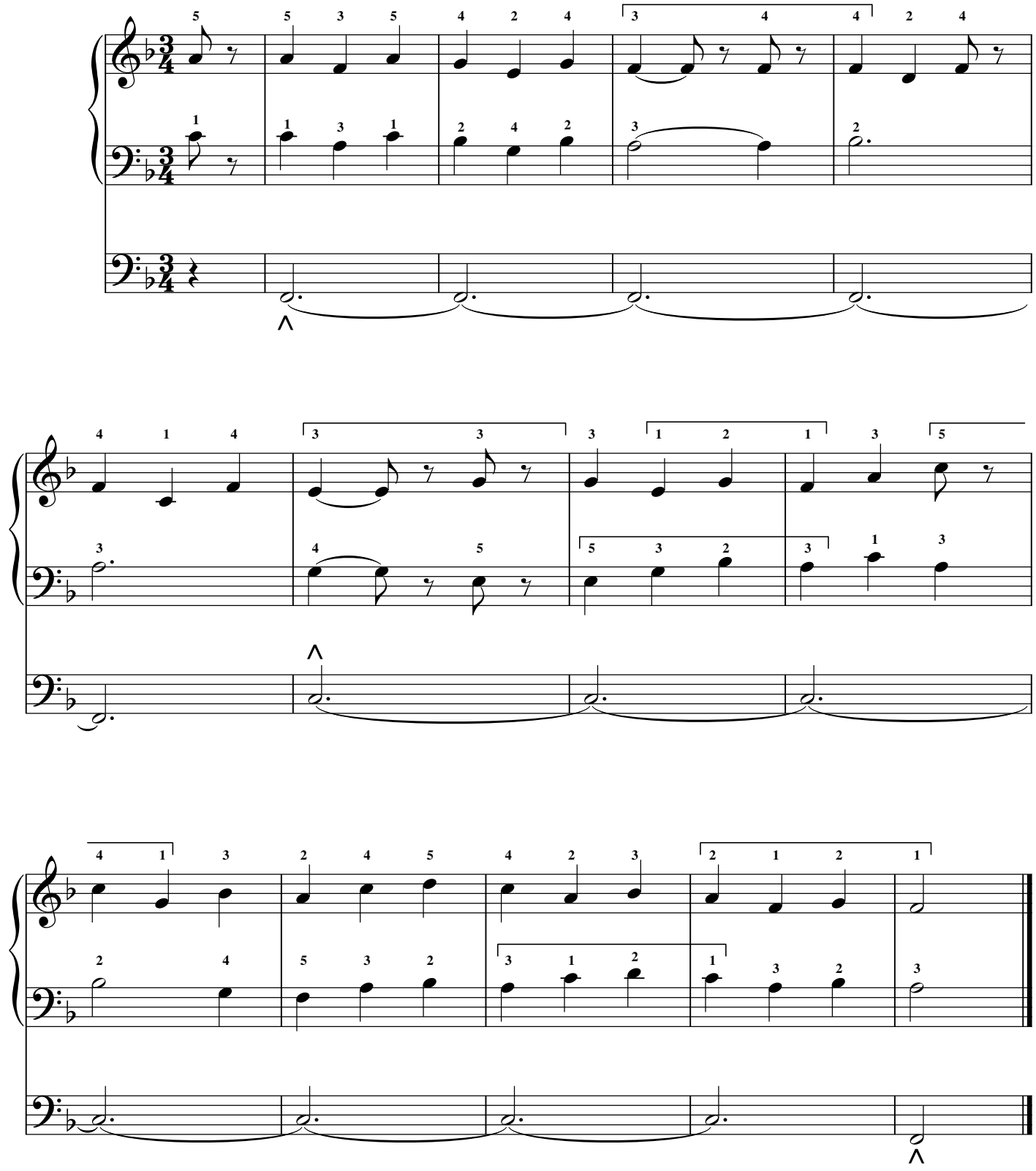
Easy Organ

#125 How Gentle God's Commands

DENNIS

Hans G. Nageli
Arr. MIKE CARSON

Practice braketed sections first



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