

ENHANCED INTRODUCTIONS

Finding and Creating Effective and Motivating Hymn Introductions

Utah Valley AGO Mini Super Saturday, March 20, 2024

Presenter, Clay Christiansen

1. Separate melody (soprano line) on second manual, leaving alto & tenor with LH on accompaniment manual, bass line in pedals. This allows colorful, contrasting registrations – RH having different family of organ tone than the LH.

Examples:

- a. RH Oboe*; LH Flutes 8' (4')
- b. RH Cromorne*, Krummhorn* or Clarinet*; LH Strings with Celeste 8' (4')
- c. RH English Horn* or French Horn; LH Gemshorn or Strings with Celeste
- d. RH Principal, Flute, String 8'; LH Strings with Celeste 8' & 4'
- e. RH Flutes 8', 2 2/3', (1 3/5') or 16', 8', 4' (2'); LH Strings with Celeste 8' (4')
- f. RH Trumpet*; LH Principals 8' & 4'
- g. RH Trumpet* 16' & 8'; LH Principals 8', 4', 2'
- h. RH Solo Tuba or Royal Trumpet; LH Principals 8', 4', 2', Mixture

*Note: Any solo reed may be colored by addition of a flute 8', 4' or both, or even a principal 8'.

2. Play RH melody line an octave lower (especially effective with “b.” and “d.” above).
3. Add passing tones to alto, tenor and bass.
4. Add other embellishing notes to alto, tenor and bass: upper and lower auxiliaries, suspensions and anticipations, pedal points, etc.
5. Change harmony.
6. Consult one or more of the many published volumes of hymn introductions which often include reharmonizations for final verses as well. MorningStar Music Publishers are a great resource. In addition to my two volumes cited at the bottom of the Hymn Sing handout, MorningStar publishes countless others which you may sample by accessing their website at www.morningstarmusic.com and entering “Organ Hymn Introductions” into the search bar.