

Super Saturday for Church Organists | UVAGO 2026

Things Organists Do That Drive Me Crazy! – by Mike Carson

Preludes

1. Preludes too loud, too bright, or too fast
2. Not mentally counting the beats at phrase endings
3. No silence between prelude selections (It's okay to take a breath!)
4. Flipping through the hymn book to find a hymn
5. Playing too loud and too fast while the priests finish breaking the bread

Congregational Hymns

1. Not getting enough "organ on" for hymn singing
2. Using reeds and mutations inappropriately (Reeds are written in "red" for a reason. Don't use them unless you learn how!)
3. Playing hymns too fast or too slow for singing.
4. Not "breathing" at phrase endings
5. Jagged attacks and releases
6. Not utilizing the hymn introduction to establish the tempo, volume, style, and mood of the first verse.
7. Slowing down at the end of the introduction and verse endings (Slight ritardando at the end of the last verse is okay.)
8. Not playing the entire hymn for the introduction on short or unfamiliar hymns
9. Not singing the verses printed below the music
10. Not using all of the sacramental hymns
11. Depriving the congregation of singing lesser-known hymns

Bonus Blubbers

1. "Hymn" not "song"
2. "Hymn number" not "page number"
3. "Music leader" not "chorister"
4. "Musical selection" not "musical number"

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Contact me for a free 90-minute group workshop in your ward or stake or for a free private lesson.