

Course Updates

This document summarizes significant updates and improvements made to the Organ Training course.

Recent Updates

Course Organization

- Reorganized and refined lesson content to improve the flow and progression of topics throughout the course.
- Reduced unnecessary overlap between lessons while preserving important organ-playing principles.
- Added a new concluding lesson focused on continuing growth and lifelong development as a church organist.

Hymn Playing

- Expanded instruction on hymn learning and preparation.
- Added guidance for planning fingering and pedaling in hymns.
- Added instruction on adapting pianistic hymns to the organ.
- Strengthened instruction on legato technique, independence of line, repeated notes, phrasing, and hymn singing leadership.
- Added additional practice strategies for overcoming independence-of-line challenges.
- Added a new lesson teaching creative hymn playing techniques.

Registration

- Expanded hymn registration instruction into a dedicated lesson.
- Added a comprehensive crescendo chart demonstrating how organ stops work together to create a gradual increase in volume and intensity.
- Expanded instruction on executing registration changes smoothly and efficiently between verses.

Prelude and Postlude Playing

- Refined guidance for selecting, preparing, and presenting prelude and postlude music.
- Updated instruction on timing, volume, registration, and concluding prelude music effectively.

Congregational Singing

- Strengthened instruction on hymn introductions, tempo selection, phrasing, and confident leadership of congregational singing.
- Added emphasis on maintaining inspiring and engaging tempos that encourage participation.

Training and Mentoring

- New page added detailing guidance for implementing stake and local organ training programs. This page is especially intended to be given to church leaders as a ready-to-go proposal.
- Expanded instruction on the use of organ mentors and structured training opportunities.
- Added recommendations for quarterly organ training meetings.

Course Resources

- Added an “About the Creator” page.
- Updated the course progress record.
- Improved lesson examples, demonstration materials, and practice directions throughout the course. Some new materials lack demonstration videos at the moment. They will appear once they are ready.
- An updated PDF print-out version of the course will be made available once the update is ready. Access will be placed on the home page of the organ course.