

Summer Organ Academy 2021: Church Organist Daily Outline

Day 1: TECHNIQUE

- Fostering a reliable and healthy organ technique
- Establishing criteria for solid hymn playing
- Discussion of phrasing and articulation as applied to both hymn playing and repertoire

Day 2: REGISTRATION

- Repertoire and Hymn Playing requirements for the Service Playing Exam
- Registering the organ
- Discerning good editions and sourcing organ music
- Sight reading strategies, including use of the feet and utilizing the Swell box (dynamics)

Day 3: ACCOMPANYING

- Accompaniment requirement for the Service Playing Exam
- Establishing criteria for successful accompanying, including use of pedals and Swell box (dynamics)
- Developing a healthy attitude and practice routine at the organ

Day 4: SCORE INTERPRETATION

- Using the various manuals of the organ effectively
- Review of technical fundamentals
- Further interpretation of score issues, including suggested registrations, adding (or subtracting!) dynamics

Day 5: THE DIGITAL CHURCH

- Use of technology for worship services
- Maximizing the potential of available resources

Day 6: MUSIC & LITURGY

- Working with others in the worship setting including: priest/pastor, cantors, choirs, choir leader, other organists and the congregation
- Developing satisfying professional relationships
- Sending helpful messages “non-verbally” to others in the worship sphere through cueing, starting pitches and musical introductions
- Introduction to “high” liturgies, including how to begin developing one’s liturgical skills
- Introduction to various styles of Psalm accompaniment
- Where to look for more tools and information

There will be 90 minutes of class time plus 15 minutes of social time every day.

Participants are invited to submit a maximum of 4 videos (itemized below). All videos will be viewed by the instructor, but not all videos will be shared during the academy. Unless specifically requested, one video from each participant will be screened during the academy.

- 1) Silent Night in the SPE version (introduction and all stanzas)
- 2) a Prelude to a Service of Public Worship (score must be attached to registration)
- 3) a Postlude to a Service of Public Worship (score must be attached to registration)
- 4) accompaniment for Fairest Lord Jesus by Martin How

Participants will be supplied with Service Playing Exam materials including: a registration form, one sample accompaniment of Fairest Lord Jesus by Martin How, hymn leaflet (all 5 hymns), and one sample sight reading example.