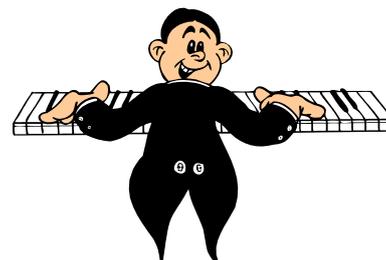


Organists in Training

Advice for Would-be Organists

Getting Started!

- During the church service, sit beside another organist and observe
- Attend introductory sessions for would-be organists
- Purchase a few useful books of hymns/songs and repertoire
- Practise at home and in church
- Take part in the church service by playing one item at first, then build up experience over time
- Be part of a group, share experiences, join an organisation



Resources to get the fingers (and feet) moving!



Organ: *The First Year at the Organ* (Buck, Stainer & Bell) – a useful organ tutor which summarises all the main techniques and skills required to play the organ (includes information on stops)

Piano: *Piano Pieces and Exercises Grade 1* (Trinity Guildhall)
Selected Piano Exam Pieces Grade 1 (ABRSM)

Electronic Keyboard: *Electronic Keyboard Pieces & Technical Work Grade 1* (Trinity Guildhall)

Resources to help with Easy Hymns/Songs!

Hymn Samples (Forth in Praise)

Hymn Samples 2, Easter (Forth in Praise)

Easy Christmas Carols (Forth in Praise)



Resources to help with Easy Repertoire!



Organ

Organ Music for Manuals Books 1-6 (any book) (ed. C.H. Trevor, OUP)

Old English Organ Music for Manuals Books 1-6 (any book) (ed. C.H. Trevor, OUP)

Wedding Voluntaries (Forth in Praise)

Funeral Voluntaries (Forth in Praise)

Famous Eucharistic Melodies (Forth in Praise)

A Graded Anthology vol. 2 (ed. Anne Marsden Thomas, Cramer)

A Graded Romantic French Anthology for Organ, Book 1 (Cramer)

Oxford Service Music for Organ, Manuals only Book 1 (OUP)

Piano

At the Piano with Sons of Bach (Alfred 418)

Simply Classics, Grade 0-1 (Faber)

Useful websites

- www.sdso.co.uk the website of the Stirling & District Society of Organists
- www.forthinpraise.co.uk music resources (repertoire, hymns/songs) for Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh, events (materials can be used by organists in all the main denominations)
- www.scotsorgan.co.uk SCOTS (Scottish Churches Organist Training Scheme) information, syllabus, repertoire ideas, events
- www.animusi.co.uk publisher of accessible organ music at affordable prices
- www.fagus-music.com publisher of accessible organ music at affordable prices
- www.rscm.com Royal School of Church Music information, events
- www.abrsm.org Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, syllabus, repertoire ideas
- www.trinitycollege.co.uk Trinity College London, syllabus, repertoire ideas
- www.rco.org.uk Royal College of Organists, syllabus, repertoire ideas, events
- www.st-andrews.ac.uk/music University of St Andrews Organ Summer School
- www.edinburghorganists.org Edinburgh Organ Academy



The Organ (a description)

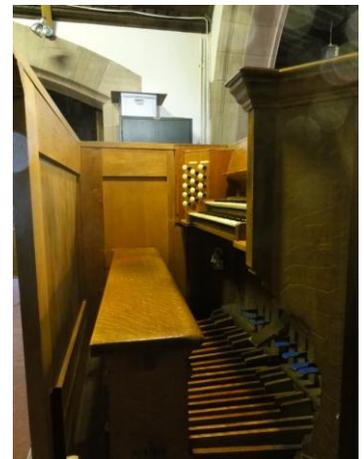


The organ as an instrument has been around for a long time. The word “organ” is mentioned in the Psalms, although its meaning there is subject to debate. References to very early organs can be found in Chinese, Greek and Roman sources. Organs were being built in France and England by about the middle of the eighth century. In the tenth century there was a famous organ at Winchester Cathedral which had about 40 notes. The asymmetric pattern of white and black notes was invented by organ builders in order to make the notes easier to locate. Mozart coined the phrase “King of Instruments” when he referred to the organ.

In Scotland, James I returned to Edinburgh from his captivity in 1424, bringing a new interest in music and the arts – and pipe organs, without which no entertainment would have been complete! It is thought that there would already have been organs in monasteries (for example, St Andrews, Dunfermline) since this would conform with continental practice.



Modern pipe organs consist of sets of pipes which draw air from large bellows, all of which is controlled by the organist sitting at a console with one or more keyboards. Each keyboard has a name (Great, Swell) and the larger pipes may have their own keyboard played by the feet. Pipes can make sounds which are loud, soft, high, low, narrow and bright, large and round, and all variations in-between. The job of the organist is to select sounds (called “stops”) which go well together, rather like an artist mixing colours on his palette. Most organists learn the keyboards first and add pedals later. Modern electronic organs have all the features mentioned above, but produce electronically sampled sound



through large speakers.

Further reading

The Organ – David Baker (Shire Publications)

ISBN 0 7478 0560 1