ALCM –- 2013 Biennial National Conference
June 30 – July3
Valparaiso University

Session 2

Simple(r) Organ Solutions

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Workshop synopsis:
This session introduces a variety of hymn-based extemporization techniques, as offered in *Off the Page, Too*. These include: using scales, modifying inner voices of a hymnal setting, changing tonality, developing pattern toccatas, and more! (This resource and session complement and extend the techniques offered in *Off the Page*.)

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+ A sampling of Extemporization Techniques in *Off the Page, Too** +

1. SCALES (S; Chr) as *harmonic partners*; (major; minor; chromatic) - *Ch. 2*

- reflecting early Baroque and some contemporary techniques
- a single voice *counterpoint* adaptable to many traditional, diatonic hymn tunes
- major, minor; chromatic scales, each within a comfortable compass
- numerous possibilities for variety / options

Some basic considerations:

- direction of scale
- treatment of hymn tune
- ratio possibilities
- benefits engaging several manuals
- coordinated symbols: basic and optional
- enriching with options:
- including involving a related minor
- some possible uses:

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2. MODIFYING INNER VOICES (MIV) - *Ch. 3*

A. Horizontal movement: (extending the AIV technique, *Ch. 4* in ***OtP***)

- Eighth and Triplet groupings
- Sixteenth note groupings
- Incorporating UN and LN notes –

B. Vertical combinations:

- Eighths; quasi triplet groupings . . .
- Combining with other ETs: e.g**. I/I/C; F-I**; . . .
- some possible uses:

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3. CHANGING TONALITY (CTo) - *Ch. 7*

- resets a tune in major to a related key in minor
- several basic options: melody only; melody and bass from h. h.; all four parts of h.h.
- among the more "favored" keys: G maj.; F maj.; D maj.
- several initial steps:
- mentally replace the "printed" key signature with the appropriate one in minor,
  - remembering pertinent flats, sharps, or accidentals affecting the new key;
  - give particular attention to the 7th degree of the scale.
- effective in supporting tunes with solemn texts: e.g. *Martyrdom; Hamburg*…
- providing variety within and/or in conjunction with other settings
- use with another ET: e.g. ***AIV*** *or* ***SBN***
- some possible uses:

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4. PATTERN TOCCATAS (pT) *Ch. 9 –* ***OtP2***

- hymn choices:
- rhythmic patterns :
- use of hymnal harmonization
- infusing variety; adding length
- some possible uses:

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Worth remembering:

- developing your "organist's hymnal" for retaining your "discoveries";
- use ideas to augment and help congregation stay "connected" . . . via hymn-tunes;
- these are SOS ideas, i.e. *Gebrauchsmusik*; meant to be practical; serviceable; (not to "wow")
- consider sharing ideas with colleagues who are **non-**professionals / "**part timers**"; **beginning** improvisers; -
- use a few minutes when you go to the organ to *experiment*; combine/enrich;
- for the most part, chapters in ***OtP2*** are quite individually independent; proceed at your own pace.

+ Enjoy your discoveries! +

Contents of *Off the Page, Too*•

Ch. 1: - Service Playing Matters
Ch. 2: - Scales as Harmonic Partners
Ch. 3: - Modifying Inner Voices
Ch. 4: - Extenders: Manual Flourishes
Ch. 5: - Pedal Enrichments
Ch. 6: - Sustaining Accompanimental Chords
Ch. 7: - Changing Tonality
Ch. 8: - Ornamenting Melodies
Ch. 9: - Pattern Toccatas