

Easy organ music for the Sunday accompanist

(Advent, Christmas and Epiphany)

By Isaac Lee

Why the need for appropriate organ music?

- Every opportunity to play is an opportunity to educate.
- Sets the mood for the service.
- Self-improvement.

What makes it easy?

Criteria

- Affordability
- Number of page turns
- Length
- Registration
- Complexity of music
- Appropriateness

Where do we look to?

Hymnals consulted

- Common Praise
- The United Methodist Hymnal
- The Celebration Hymnal
- Hymns of Praise
- The Presbyterian Hymnal

Advent

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland
(Savior of the nations come)

Zachow-LV 50

Bach-BWV 699

Scheidt-SSWV 149

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland

Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow
(1663 – 1712)

Vers 1

Man.

Vers 2

Vers 3

Vers 4

- 2 pages
- 4 variations
- Vers 1 Principal
- Vers 2 Sesquialtera
- Vers 3 Reed
- Vers 4 Plenum
- Order to practice
4, 2, 3, 1
- *Figura corta*-
expressions of joy

2

Vers 3

Vers 4

Advent

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme
(Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling)

Rinck-Op. 105, No. 74
Walther-Chorale Prelude

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

Johann Christian Heinrich Rinck
(1770-1846)

9

16

23

- 1 page
- Slow, stately tempo
- Variety of textures. Elementary two-part writing to hymn-like; everything lies comfortable in the hands.
- Economy of motif, using the characteristic opening ascending triad.
- Stirring, rousing registration. Fuller plenum or reed plenum.

(240) Vers 1.

- 2 pages, 2 verses
- Slow, *alla breve* beat
- *Vorimitation*
- Variety of textures. Combination of different phrases.
- More contrapuntal but division of parts still lie comfortably under the hands.
- Pay attention to phrasing; end of one is the start of the next. Usually builds to the third voice with soprano belting out the chorale melody.
- Repetition (e.g. Bar 14 & 38) and long hymn.
- Plenum with tierce mixtures.

Vers 2.

Christmas

In dulci jubilo
(Good Christian Men Rejoice)

Zachow-LV 34

J. M. Bach-(BWV 751)*

Bach-BWV 729

In dulci jubilo

J.S. Bach (?) BWV 751

- 2 pages
- Clear melody
- Repetition
- Pedal points
- Ped passages may be played octave up in hands
- Light reed for pedal, bright flutes for manuals
- Play with the metrical groupings
- Experiment with articulation

In dulci jubilo

BWV 729

Johann Sebastian BACH
(1685-1750)

Restitution : P. Goutin

- 3 pages
- Four part setting of the hymn (with pedal) with fantastical interludes between the phrases.
- Alternating between freedom in the interludes, maintaining a strict beat in the chorale and finding a happy compromise when the two combine.
- Bright and clear plenum. 16'permissible only if it speaks promptly and preferably with upper partials like a Quintaton.
- Difficulty lies in maintaining the integrity of each part. Take care of the running quavers as they weave in and out of the chorale and strive for a seamless transition of material between the hands.
- Early Bach, brimming with unbridled virtuosity and harmonic invention.

Christmas

Greensleeves

(What child is this, who, laid to rest)

Ferrarini-Greensleeves Fantasy

Boeringer-Partita for Christmas on “Greensleeves”

Christmas

Stille Nacht
(Silent Night)

Harinek-Cuckoo in Silent Night
Nielsen-Drømmen om "Glade Jul"

Drømmen.

om
„Glade Jul!“
(„Stille Nacht.“)

Carl Nielsen.

Poco adagio.

- 2 pages
- Slow tempo
- Possibility to cut sections
- Orchestrate the piece. Outer sections with strings and celestes. Middle section, flute harmonic for the RH solo and bourdon for LH.
- Feet free to operate swell boxes
- Attention to legato and rubato

Christmas

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her
(From heaven on high I come to you)

Pachelbel-P52

Pachelbel-P478

Bach-BWV 701

57. Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her.

The musical score is for a single-voice organ piece in D major, 2/4 time. It consists of seven systems of music. The first system includes a 'Ped.' (pedal) instruction. The score features a single melodic line in each hand, often moving in parallel motion. The pedal part is characterized by slow-moving lines with frequent rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line and the instruction 'D. d. T. i. B. vl.' (Da Capo, first time, first ending).

- 1 page
- Tuneful and always a crowd pleaser
- Slow moving pedal part separated by rests
- Single voice in each hand
- Parallel motion in manuals
- Light reed or principal in pedals, sparkling flutes in manuals
- Conduct with the pedals, feel the slow swing of two beats per bar
- Experiment with articulation

Vom Himmel hoch da komm' ich her.

19

Fughetta.

B.W. XL

- 1 page
- Annunciation to the shepherds. Flurry of scales up and down the keyboard depict the angels.
- Descending from on high, treble to bass. Word painting.
- Fast tempo.
- Chorale tune still has to sing out amidst all the busyness that is happening around.
- Gapped registration (e.g. 8' and 2') of bright flutes to convey the agility and excitement of the angels.
- Left hand dexterity.

Christmas

Es ist en Rose entsprungen
(Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming)

Liardon-Petite fantaisie d'après Buxtehude
Brahms-Op. 122. No. 8

8. Es ist ein 'Ros' entsprungen

Johannes BRAHMS
(1833-1897)

Andante

Orgue

p

3

5

7

9

- 2 pages
- Perennial favorite among organists.
- The simple tune with many repeated notes is profusely decorated with non-harmonic notes.
- Pay attention to the dissonances produced by the non-harmonic notes and how it enriches/word paints. Milk them using a legato touch and rubato.
- Difficulty lies in maintaining the integrity of each voice part (eg. when the opening measures are inverted pick-up to bar 5, when the spacing gets wide).
- Register with speaking principals/tender flutes/lush strings or a combination thereof. Orchestrate it on different manuals but bear in mind to keep them all in a similar character.

Christmas

Adeste Fideles
(O Come, All Ye Faithful)

Papy-INP 1

Lefébure-Wély-ILL 92

Mack-IEM 1

Larriu-IAL 4

Adeste fideles

Offertoire pour Noël

Restitution : P. Gouin

N. Papy
(18?? - 19??)

Moderato

The first system of the musical score for 'Adeste fideles' is shown. It consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The tempo is marked 'Moderato'. The first measure is marked '(Réc.) p'. The music features a homophonic texture with a clear melody in the treble and a supporting bass line. The system ends with a measure marked 'p (Réc.)'.

- 2 pages
- Tune clearly stated
- Hymn-like (homophonic & homorhythmic)
- Soft swell with reed (8', with box closed). Great bombastic, reed plenum (16', 8', 4').
- Feet free to operate swell pedal.

The second system of the musical score for 'Adeste fideles' is shown. It continues the grand staff notation. The first measure is marked '(G. O.) f'. The music features a homophonic texture with a clear melody in the treble and a supporting bass line. The system ends with a measure marked 'p (Réc.)'.

CHANT DE NOËL

à son élève *M^{me} O. de MONTESSUY*.

Andante.

HARMONIUM.

L. G. 2634.

- Feet free to operate swell pedal.

Andante.

L. G. 2634.

Epiphany

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern
(How brightly shines the Morning Star)

J. C. Bach-IJB 22

Distler-Op. 8, No. 3

Buxtehude-BuxWV 223

39. Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

The image displays a musical score for the hymn 'Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern'. The score is written for piano and is organized into three systems. Each system consists of a treble staff and a bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The first system begins with a treble staff containing a whole rest followed by a melodic line starting on the fifth measure, marked with a '5'. The bass staff features a continuous eighth-note accompaniment. A 'Ped.' (pedal) instruction is placed below the bass staff at the end of the first system. The second system starts at measure 10, with the treble staff continuing the melody and the bass staff providing accompaniment. The third system begins at measure 20, showing further development of the melody and accompaniment, ending at measure 25. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and slurs.

- 1 page
- Pedal point
- Moving pedal parts may be played by LH
- Fughetta, melody plainly stated
- Simple rhythm, note against note
- Plenum registration

I. VORSPIEL UND SATZ „WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET DER MORGENSTERN“

Fließende  Rückpositiv: Gedackt 8' Oktave 2'

Hugo Distler, Op. 8^{III}




- Accessible tonal language. Pentatonic sound. Odd but in a good way.
- Repetition
- Neo-Baroque registration. Dulcian in pedal is a soft reed.
- Two voice imitative texture confined to RH.

Noels and Character Pieces

Zipoli-Pastorale

Daquin-Noël “Suisse”

Dandrieu-Noël “A minuit fut fait un Reveil”

Mailly-Christmas Musette

H. Grace-Cradle Song

Franck-L’Organiste, Sept pièces en ré majeur et ré mineur

Franck-L’Organiste, Sept pièces en sol majeur et sol mineur

Organ activities in Singapore



Organ Classes in Singapore

www.msmusic.edu.sg

Online Improvisation Class Part 1

<https://www.facebook.com/MethodistSchoolOfMusicMSM/videos/244921293545241/>



Organ Community in Singapore

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Scores and Publishers



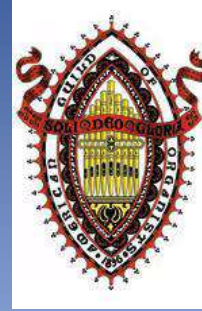
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Organ Music Publishers

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