

Introducing Pianists to the Organ

THINK BACK

- ❖ Each of us has a story about our own introduction to the organ.
- ❖ How did you get excited about the King of Instruments? Who introduced you to the organ? Who helped you on your organ-playing journey? Who provided your first opportunity to play part or all of a worship service?

ASK QUESTIONS

- ❖ If it's on your mind, be sure to ask. You surely aren't the only one pondering such things!
- ❖ What are your/your chapter's questions, concerns, and goals regarding growing the next generation of organists?

BE CREATIVE

- ❖ There are many ways to introduce pianists to the organ. Extend an invitation to a pianist to serve as a worship assistant, having them turn pages and pull stops. Partner with a piano teacher to have a piano recital at church, inviting the performers to play their piece a second time on the organ. Invite piano teacher colleagues to study the organ and add that to their skill set. Learn about the new AGO Achievement Award Program and encourage pianists and novice organists to use it to improve their organ skills. Establish a chapter scholarship fund to offer pianists scholarships for an introductory set of organ lessons. Publicize the AGO's annual Pipe Organ Encounters (POE). Work with your chapter to host a POE.
- ❖ What ideas do you have? The sky's the limit!

TEACHING STRATEGIES

- ❖ Every student has unique goals and learning styles.
- ❖ Seek out the music that will motivate each student and give them the opportunity to succeed at the organ.
- ❖ Each student has a unique background and different training. Be adaptable in your teaching!
- ❖ Not everyone is aiming to become a concert organist or church musician – and that's okay. We need audiences, organ committee members, donors, too!
- ❖ Provide opportunities for your students to share the music they have learned. This can happen through recitals, opportunities to play part of a worship service, or playing in a chapter event such as a masterclass or member recital.

Pipe Organ Encounters (POE)

Hosting a POE is one of the most wonderful experiences your chapter can have!

- ❖ introduce pianists to the organ, encourage those who already play to hone their skills, and provide those interested in organ-building to learn more about the craft
- ❖ strengthen your chapter as members work together to produce the POE
- ❖ engage the community as they learn about the organs in their area and have opportunities to hear concerts

Now recognized as one of the flagship programs of the AGO, the POE program began in 1988 with the “traditional” POE. It now includes four different types of POEs:

<p>Pipe Organ Encounter (POE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 5-6 day event ❖ ages 13-18 ❖ intended to introduce students to the world of the pipe organ 	<p>POE-Advanced (POE-A)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 5-6 day event ❖ participants entering grades 9-12 ❖ provides a more advanced/intensive course of study than a POE
<p>POE-Plus (POE+)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 3-5 day event ❖ ages 19+ ❖ intended for adults of any experience level wishing to improve their skills 	<p>POE-Technical (POE-Tech)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 4-6 day event ❖ ages 16-23 ❖ intended for folks interested in the art of organ building ❖ co-hosted by an AGO chapter and a local organ builder
<p>All POEs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ provide a unique opportunity for participants to meet and interact with peers who have similar interests ❖ host chapters are supported by the Committee on Pipe Organ Encounters (CoPOE) to produce an outstanding event ❖ host chapters are entitled to grant funding from AGO National, APOBA, and AIO 	

POES PRODUCE NEW AGO MEMBERS!

- ❖ All POE, POE-A, and POE-Tech participants receive a free 1-year membership in the AGO.
- ❖ If your chapters includes folks who have attended a POE (and are thus new members), be sure that your chapter welcomes them and invites them to be part of your activities.

GET TO KNOW THEM

- ❖ Invite new members to write a short article about their POE experience. Include it, with photos, in your chapter newsletter.
- ❖ Consider including them on a members' recital or in a master class.

SUPPORT THEM FINANCIALLY

- ❖ If your chapter has a scholarship program, support them in their organ studies.
- ❖ Make them aware of scholarships/competitions offered by the AGO and other entities.

PROVIDE THE NECESSARY TOOLS

- ❖ Identify churches that will provide practice time on the organ.
- ❖ Encourage folks with home organs they no longer use to donate them to a student.
- ❖ Gather used music and gently used organ shoes to help new organists build their libraries.

HELP THEM GROW

- ❖ Be sure that they are aware of all of the educational resources available through AGO:
 - AGO's Online Educational Videos (a set of 30 lessons)
<https://www.agohq.org/online-educational-resources/>
 - Organ Tutor (available free to AGO members)
<https://www.agohq.org/organ-tutor/>

**** Is your curiosity piqued? * Interested in learning more? * Ready to host a POE event? ****

- ❖ Many folks are willing and eager to help get you started:
 - Members of CoPOE, listed here:
<https://www.agohq.org/education/committee-on-pipe-organ-encounters/>
 - Your Regional Councillor or Regional Education Coordinator, found here:
<https://www.agohq.org/regions/>
- ❖ Consult the POE Handbook, downloadable here:
https://www.agohq.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/POE-Handbook-2018_updated-10-14-2019.pdf
 - CAUTION: This document can be intimidating! It is intended as a helpful resource, not to scare you away!

RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

[Complete Organ Method](#) (John Stainer)

[Complete Organ Method: A Classic Text on Organ Technique](#) (John Stainer, ed. Harker)

[The Concordia Organ Method](#) (John Behnke)

[Discover the Basics](#) (Wayne Leupold, Naomi Rowley)

[Discover the Organ](#) (Wayne Leupold, Naomi Rowley)

[Feet Don't Fail Me Now](#) (Alan Hommerding)

[First Organ Book](#) (Wayne Leupold)

[Fundamentals of Organ Playing: Two Practices](#) (Richard Enright)

[Method of Organ Playing, 8th Edition](#) (Harold Gleason)

[Organ Method Volumes 1 and 2](#) (Ernst Kaller)

[Organ Technique Modern and Early](#) (George Ritchie and George Stauffer)

[Organ Tutor 101](#) (Don Cook); <https://organtutor.byu.edu/>

[The Organists' Manual](#) (Roger E. Davis)

[Pedal Mastery](#) (Joyce Jones)

[Practically Perfect Pedaling](#) (Alfred Zabel)

[Suzuki Organ School](#); <http://www.suzukiorgan.com/>

[A System of Technical Studies in Pedal Playing for the Organ](#) (Lars Nilson)

[Systematic Organ Pedal Technique and General Interpretation](#) (Reginald Goss Custard)

[Technique and Art of Organ Playing](#) (Clarence Dickinson)

This Resource Compiled by Members of the Committee on Pipe Organ Encounters (CoPOE)

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