

Dear Uncle Max Archive

- The Brahms Chorale Preludes Master Lesson | April 1979
- AGO Exams | September 1980
- A First Step in Keyboard Modulation | October 1982
- CAGO Bridges | May 1984
- Preston Rockholt's Publication "Creative Service Playing: An Advanced Improvisation Workbook" | September 1987
- Interpreting the AGO College Certification Required Compositions | June 1990
- The Fugue (Book Review) | November 1992
- Tributes for George Faxon (1913-1992) | December 1992
- What is a mutation? | January 1997
- What is "skip" registration? | January 1997
- What is the difference between principal, montre, and diapason? | January 1997
- How long should a prelude for church be? Should I play an entire prelude and fugue? | January 1997
- A bride wants me to play Clair de Lune on the organ, but I only know it on the piano. What should I do? | January 1997
- How do I know the best tempo for hymns? | January 1997
- How should the left hand part of Carillon by Vierne be played? | January 1997
- How can I make an Alberti style bass line sound better on the organ? | January 1997
- Why do large churches expect or require organists to play difficult pieces, and what can be done about chatting during the prelude? | May 1997
- I miss "Getting Through Sunday Morning" articles in TAO. What constitutes a basic music library for non-professional organists? | May 1997
- What is a ventil? | June 1997
- What is a good way to differentiate markings for general pistons and manual pistons in music scores? | June 1997
- Can you provide practice suggestions for Bach's first trio sonata? | June 1997
- What is the difference between a rank and a stop? | June 1997
- What is meant by a pulled cornet? | June 1997

- How can I bring variety to different hymn stanzas without using pistons? | June 1997
- Can the two- and three-part inventions of J.S. Bach be played on the organ? | August 1997
- Is it acceptable to change the voicing of chords to accommodate smaller hands? | August 1997
- What is Brahms' background with the organ and why he write organ pieces? | August 1997
- How should one move from stanza to stanza in hymn playing? | September 1997
- I'm not trained as an organist, don't find TAO articles useful at my level, and feel uncomfortable at chapter meetings. | November 1997
- Does a sesquialtera have the same pitches as a cornet? Are the two constructed differently? | November 1997
- What is a unit or a unified organ? | November 1997
- What is unison off? | November 1997
- Is there a book on how to perform Gelineau Psalms? | December 1997
- What is a wind stabilizer? Why would one be necessary? How does it affect the overall winding of a larger (Fisk) instrument? | January 1998
- I have a registration question regarding Max Reger, Opus 67, measure 18 of God who Madest Earth and Heaven. | January 1998
- What toccatas are appropriate for high school students? | February 1998
- E.F. Benson's novel "The Worshipful Lucia" refers to Falberg's "Storm at Sea" and a Diocton stop. Do they exist? | March 1998
- How many beats are required between stanzas of hymns? | April 1998
- Can you recommend the best editions of J.S. Bach's organ works? | June 1998
- What past or current celebrities have had or have the ability to play the organ? | June 1998
- What can I do if the pedal stops on my organ speak slower than the stops on the manuals? | July 1998
- What is the difference between a quint stop and a nazard stop? | July 1998
- The toccatas of Frescobaldi are so different from those of Widor and Vierne. What does toccata mean? | July 1998
- How can I achieve mistake free performances? | September 1998
- What is the difference between "Soli Deo Gloria" and "Soli Dei Gloria"? | October 1998
- Will the latest in synthesizers, the computerized interactive piano-organ, eliminate the need for professional organists? | November 1998
- Who are celebrities who play the organ and might be AGO members? | February 1999

- How should I approach the difficult sections in learning Bach's "Aus tiefer Not schrei' ich zu dir" (BWV686)? | March 1999
- Can you explain mixture stops? | June 1999
- Where can I find the score for "Air" by Giuseppe Tartini? | July 1999
- What stops are on 16', 8', and 4' Italian Renaissance organs? | August 1999
- Where can I find a list of composers whose organ and choral works have been catalogued? | September 1999
- Is it appropriate to change manuals in the preludes and fugues of JS Bach? | October 1999
- Did Bach use reeds in his pleno and should we? | October 1999
- Why do organists play the music of JS Bach on one loud registration? | October 1999
- Is the lack of a 4' reed stop in the pedal a matter of economics? | December 1999
- Where can I locate recordings of anthems on the CAGO exam? | January 2000
- What music was played at the weddings of Prince Charles, Prince Andrew, and Prince Edward? Who were the organists? | March 2000
- Based on newspaper details, what Bach organ piece might have just concluded when President McKinley was assassinated at the Temple of Music in Buffalo? | April 2000
- Why are choirmaster salaries usually greater than those for organist/choirmaster? | May 2000
- Is there a listing of Bach compositions that includes both BWV numbers and a few introductory measures? | June 2000
- How do you know when to use connected vs. separated fingering? | July 2000
- How do you know whether to use one or two manuals for Bach chorales? | July 2000
- If an organ doesn't have a good reed stop should one avoid repertoire requiring a reed or are there alternatives? | July 2000
- How do you know when to couple manuals to the pedal? | July 2000
- What are the differences between French and German ornamentation? | August 2000
- What pitch should be used for a melody in the pedal, and what combination should be used in the manual? | August 2000
- How much time should be allowed between stanzas of a hymn? | August 2000
- How much organ study is needed before taking the AGO Service Playing Exam? | August 2000
- Why don't some people recommend gapped/skipped/split registrations when they sound so good? | September 2000

- What should be considered in planning a recital program? | September 2000
- How can one decide if a piece is worth learning? | September 2000
- How should I adapt the running notes in piano/guitar anthem accompaniments to the organ? | October 2000
- What is the best 8' stop to use with mutations? | October 2000
- Are the preludes and fugues of JS Bach appropriate for preludes? | October 2000
- How can I encourage an organ committee to select a pipe organ over an electronic? | October 2000
- As a church musician how can I deal successfully with various personalities, including challenging ones? | November 2000
- Where can I find English translations of the titles of French Noëls? | December 2000
- What is a tuning keyboard and how does it work? | December 2000
- Regarding Marcel Dupre's historic recording at St. Thomas Church in NYC, please comment on his use of significantly different registrations in "Salve Regina" than Widor indicated. | January 2001
- Did a cappella in the 15th and 16th centuries always mean unaccompanied? | February 2001
- Topic(s)? | March 2001
- Why do some composers write notes that are beyond the range of a pedalboard or a keyboard? How should I adapt to this situation? | April 2001
- Can you suggest some interesting postludes of medium difficulty? | May 2001
- More information on tuning keyboards. | May 2001
- Can you recommend literature for harp and organ? | June 2001
- Where should I place my hands when playing a pedal cadenza, scale, or solo? | July 2001
- What is the significance of the title of "Pasticcio" by Langlais? Can you explain the Braille notation used in the piece? | September 2001
- Roberta Bitgood Tribute | July 2007
- An afternoon with Arnold Schoenberg and his "Variations on a Recitative," Opus 40 | May 2008
- The Education of Organists | March 2010