

Hymn Playing 101 and 102

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A. Hymn Playing 101: Playing four voice hymns.

1. The basic hymn performance: RH, Soprano/Alto; LH, Tenor; Pedals, Bassline
2. Manuals Only.
3. Solo out the melody.
4. Melody in the tenor.
5. Note to beginners: Gradually increase pedal usage.

B. Find the BIG Beat

1. **4/4 Meter, play with half note as the pulse.**
 - a. **Music:** Repeated Notes-Tie alto and tenor repeated notes on beats 1 and 2 and on beats 3 and 4; All soprano and bass repeated notes will be repeated.
 - b. **Text:** Mark all text punctuation with a vertical line; Mark all major cadences where there is no punctuation with a horizontal line; Text overrides the repeated note ties.
2. **¾ Meter, play with a dotted half note as the pulse.**
 - a. **Music:** Repeated Notes: Tie alto and tenor repeated notes on beats 1, 2, and 3; All soprano and bass repeated notes will be repeated.
 - b. **Text:** Mark all text punctuation with a vertical line; Mark all major cadences where there is no punctuation with a horizontal line; Text overrides the repeated note ties.

C. Other Considerations:

1. Hymn Introductions
2. Tempo
3. Registration

D. Hymn Playing 102: Simple Hymn Improvisations aka. Giving "The" Treatment.

1. Solo out melody in same register as written AND
Solo out melody an octave lower and LH and octave higher
2. Alto Descant
3. Passing notes/Suspensions/Non-harmonic notes
4. Points of Imitation
5. Fanfares

Communion Meditations:

1. Planing 3rds, 6ths, 4ths, 5ths
2. Pedal Points
3. Ostinato: keep it very simple, such as quarter and half notes for example

E. Selected Bibliography on Hymn Playing:

Freese, Faythe. *Sunday Morning Organist: A Survivor's Guide for the Pianist*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2002.

Heller, David. *Manual on Hymn Playing*. Chicago: GIA Publications, Inc., 1992.

Johns, Michele. *Hymn Improvisation*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1987.

From AGO Resources:

Ferguson, John. *A Mini-Course in Creative Hymn Playing*.

Woolard, Margot Ann. *A Mini-Course in Hymn Playing*.

Mitchell-Wallace, Sue. *The Art and Craft of Playing Hymns*.

God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength 191

WINCHESTER OLD CM

The Psalter, 1912; alt. 1988

Esse's Psalms, 1592

1. God is our ref-uge and our strength,
 2. Though hills a-mid the seas be cast,
 3. Where God a-bides a riv-er flows,
 4. Since God is in the midst of it,

ev-er-pres-ent aid,
 Though foam-ing wa-ters roar,
 That cit-y will re-joice,
 The cit-y walls shall stand,

And there-fore, though the earth re-move, We will not be a-fraid;
 Yea, though the might-y bil-lows shake—The moun-tains on the shore.
 But na-tions fear and king-doms shake—Be-fore God's thun-dering voice.
 Se-cure and safe with God's sure help, When trou-ble is at hand.

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me 366

ST. CATHERINE 8.8.8.8.8

Paul Gerhardt, 1653
 Trans. John Wesley, c. 1739; alt.

Henri Frederick Hemy, 1864
 Alt. James George Walton, 1874

1. Je-sus, Thy bound-less love to me No thought can
 2. O grant that noth-ing in my soul May dwell, but
 3. O Love, how gra-cious is Thy way! All fear be-

reach, no tongue de-clare; O knit my thank-ful heart to Thee,
 Thy pure love a-lone; O may Thy love pos-sess me whole,
 fore Thy pres-ence flies; Care, an-guish, sor-row melt a-way,

And reign with-out a ri-val there! Thine whol-ly, Thine a-
 My joy, my trea-sure, and my crown! All cold-ness from my
 Wher-e'er Thy heal-ing beams a-rise. O Je-sus, noth-ing

lone, I'd live, My-self to Thee en-tire-ly give.
 heart re-move; May ev-ery act, word, thought be love.
 may I see, Noth-ing de-sire, or seek, but Thee.