Session: Artistic Hymn Playing

Presenter: Joann S. Richardson, M.A., NCTM

Friday, June 18, 2021, 4:15-5:00PM

Washington State Music Teachers Association 2021 Virtual Conference

What's so special about hymns?

- What is the purpose of a hymn? Who is the hymn for?
- What makes a hymn an artistic masterpiece in miniature form?
- Why sing hymns at all?

The way many organists prepare hymns vs. artistic preparation of hymns

Why take the time to prepare a hymn artistically?

- What's in it for me?
- What's in it for the congregation?

A change of mind-set when preparing a hymn— it's not "just" a hymn!

Artistic preparation of hymns requires:

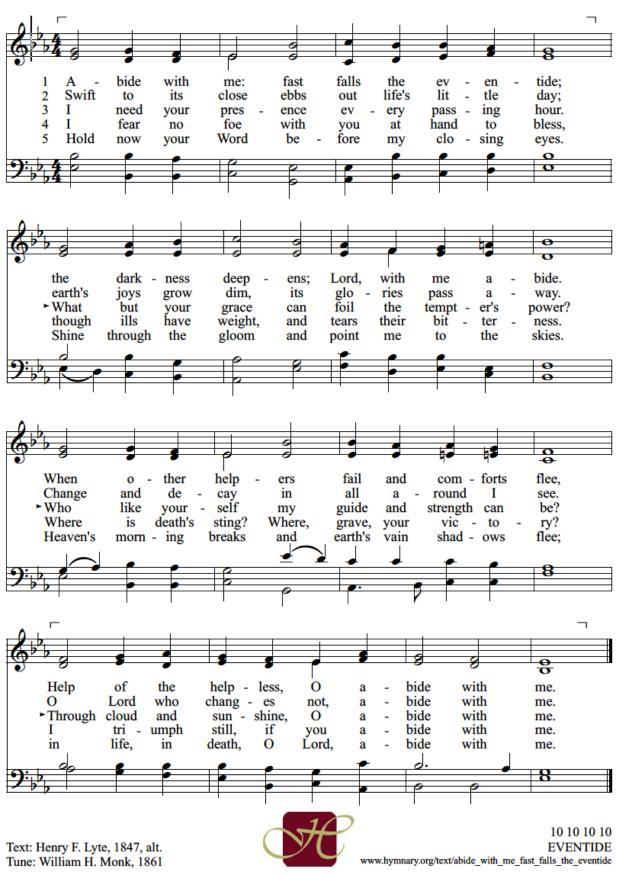
- Sensitivity to congregational needs
- Thoughtful examination of the text and the music
- Technical work (fingering, pedaling, metronome, etc...)
- Adjustments for acoustic realities
- A thorough knowledge of the stops on the organ
- · Working within the parameters of your skill-set as an organist

Demonstration: step-by-step procedure for artistic hymn preparation— Hymn: "Abide With Me"

- Consideration of the text
- Consideration of the music
- · Articulation choices
- Hymn introductions
- Technical preparation—things to practice
  - Typical manner of playing hymn (S, A, T, manuals; B-Pedal)
  - Pedaling
  - Soloing the melody
  - Creating simple descants
- · Using published interludes, modulations, descants
- Choosing registrations

Q & A

## Abide with Me



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