

Ten Secrets of Organ Playing Success

Workshop given by Dr. Richard Elliott at First Congregational Church, Berkeley, California
on Friday, April 22, 2016

- 1) **SLOW PRACTICE: “Slow and Steady Wins the Race”**
 - Alexander Schreiner: "When you start to learn something new, play it so slowly that the notes, the time and the rhythm are all played perfectly. Then gradually start to play faster, but it must always be played correctly." (Quoted in *Salt Lake Tribune*, Sunday, Sept. 30, 2014)
- 2) **FINGERING AND PEDALING: “Train Up a Hand in the Way It Should Go”**
 - Robert Rayfield (“Fingering Principles for Organists” in *Clavier*, vol. 23, no. 3, March 1984, pp. 28-31, and “Principles of Organ Pedaling” in *Clavier*, vol. 29, no. 4, April 1990, pp. 17-21.)
- 3) **MEMORIZATION: “This Kind Goeth Not Out but by Memorization”**
 - Bernstein, Seymour. *With Your Own Two Hands* (New York: G. Schirmer, 1981), pp. 238-259.
 - Bruser, Madeline. *The Art of Practicing* (New York: Bell Tower, 1997), pp. 213-225.
 - Shockley, Rebecca Payne. *Mapping Music: for Faster Learning and Secure Memory* (Middleton, WI: A-R Editions, 2001). Available from A-R Editions at www.areditions.com or 1-800-736-0070.
- 4) **PIANO PRACTICE: “Trade in Your 154 Keys for 88 Keys”**
 - Marcel Dupré. “Towards a Perfect Technique” (*Music: the A.G.O./R.C.C.O. Magazine*, March 1974, pp. 36-38).
 - Josef Pischna. *Technical Studies: 60 Progressive Exercises*
 - Alexander Schreiner. *Schreiner Reminisces*: “My ‘One Hundred Best Books’ for Building Personal Musicianship” (pp. 166-174; reprinted from *The Instructor*, December 1968, pp. 478-482).
- 5) **SILENT PRACTICE: “Silence is Golden”**
 - Two techniques: right-hand on silent manual, and everything silent
- 6) **IMPROVISATION: “Make It Up As You Go Along”**
 - “Learn to Improvise in 15 Minutes a Day”; regular column in *The American Organist* on and off since 2001.
 - Gerre Hancock. *Improvising: How to Master the Art* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994)
- 7) **RECORDING: “Go on Record” (Record Yourself)**
- 8) **PRACTICING IN RHYTHMS: “Swing It”**
- 9) **PHRASE OR MEASURE JUNCTIONS/ARTICULATION OR TOUCH: “Mind the Gap”**
- 10) **LETTING GO: “Dive in With Both Feet”**
 - Michael Gelb. *Body Learning: An Introduction to the Alexander Technique*. 2nd ed. (New York: Henry Holt, 1996)
 - Barry Green. *The Inner Game of Music*. (Garden City, NY: Anchor Press, 1986)
 - Don Greene. *Performance Success*. (New York: Routledge, 2002)