

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE TECHNICAL SIDE

by Lance Johnson

1. I am looking for information in wind pressures for a 3/10 Kimball theatre organ owned by the Potomac Valley Chapter ATOS to be installed at the University of Maryland. There is a noticeable absence of regulators especially for the 8' and 16'. There are five 16' ranks we intend to put winker regulators on the offsets during installation. What should be the correct pressures for the console, relays, traps, percussions tuned and non-tuned? There is an English Horn on the Tuba action leading me to believe this was swapped for some reason. We are thinking of moving the Tuba back to the solo at a later date.

Ans. Regarding your 16' ranks, I would most certainly have full-sized regulators on these as they consume tremendous amounts of wind volume. As they are played, the static air supply will decrease and there will be noticeable turbulence. You will first notice problems in your tremulants. Here are the suggested wind pressures: All but the console — 12". Use 15" or higher on the console.

Do you have any questions?

Send them direct to:

**QUIZ MASTER**  
And Organ Builder

**LANCE JOHNSON**  
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Kimball's combo action has a bad reputation for being unreliable and difficult to maintain. Regulate the console pressure to only as high as needed for swift acting combinations. The English Horn should be on its own untremulated action and the Tuba placed on its original action. This stop is extremely important to the solo chamber. Also keep in mind that Kimball regulators are extremely fast and therefore difficult to tremulate.

2. There are five ranks of strings on my 18 rank Kimball organ, Violin I Violin II, Gamba Celeste and Viola. How is the Violin II tuned, dead on pitch or celested? I couldn't be sure whether or not Kimball intended both violins to be tuned identically for a big solo string effect or if they intend them to be celested like the Gambas. Violin I has a 16' bass. The stop tabs do not mention the Violin II as being celested.

Ans. Kimball organs usually meant stops called Violin II to be celestes. There is no rule-of-thumb for tuning beats. I would suggest two beats per second starting at tenor C and increasing one beat additional per octave with a gradual increase. Tune the 8' octave without beats for pedal Cello response.

2. (A) The Vox Humanas have a total of 122 pipes and are on a pitman chest, both ranks coming on as a unit similar to the Gamba Celeste II. Should the slightly smaller scaled second Vox be celested or in dead tune?

Ans. With a pitman chest, any time any Vox II stop is drawn, all Vox II stops would play on the Vox I stops, since a pitman chest is essentially a straight chest. It sounds to me like this set was added in later years in order not to have to wire in additional switches and wiring to the relay. I don't know whether or not Kimball wanted these stops celested. Perhaps one of our readers could advise you. I can see no harm in celesting it if you like the results.



### Hollywood Cavalcade

Hollywood Cavalcade is missing from this issue because its director, Lyle Nash, is suffering from a serious illness. He hopes to meet us again in the next issue. Those wishing to send cards can mail them to: Lyle W. Nash, Box 113, Pasadena, California 91102.

2. (B) In the pedal division there is a 16' Bass Viol, an 8' Cello, and 4' Violins. Is the 8' Cello the same as 8' Violin or both Violin I and II or could it also include the Viola? The relay was destroyed making it impossible to determine what was wired on the 8' Cello.

Ans. Very likely the Pedal Violins 8' and Violin 4' was double switched so that both ranks played on the pedal for more power. The Viola would likely not be wired into this stop.

2. (C) What is the quality of the Kimball Echo Horn in this organ? Is it true Oboe, a muted Oboe or some other tone quality?

Ans. The word "Echo" on a stop usually means that it is voiced soft. On reeds, instead of the tops being open, they are fitted with lift-up covers for regulating volume.

2. (D) How will the Claribella compare with the Concert Flute?

Ans. The two ranks are very similar. Claribellas are more often found in church organs and are scaled about the same as a Melodia.

3. We are presently in the final stages of installing our 3/11 Wurplitzer Opus 1725 in my parents' home. Since it is a standard 235 Special, I know that the wind pressures are 10" for the bulk of the instrument and the Vox is on 6". What are the wind pressures for the Solo Scale Tibia, Harmonic Tuba, the console and swell shades?