

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE TECHNICAL SIDE

by Lance Johnson

Do you have any questions?

Send them direct to:

QUIZMASTER
and Organbuilder

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Q. I have a chance to get a Gemshorn and Gemshorn Celeste for my eight-rank theatre organ. Since I already have a Salicional and Salicional Celeste, would it be alright to add the Gemshorn stops?

A. In my opinion, a Gemshorn and Celeste would be a very beautiful addition to your organ.

Q. I am thinking of adding a second touch to my three-manual console. On what manual should I install it? Should the pedals have it also? How does one install this on manuals that were never built for second touches?

A. It would be nice to have second touch on at least the Accompaniment and Great. Second touches are probably used less often on the pedals, but it would certainly be a good option. I would need a well-drawn sketch, done to scale, showing the cross sectional view of your manuals if I am to show you how to pre-

pare the key frames and keys for second touch springs.

Q. I have an extra Vox Humana for my theatre organ which I would like to change into a Kinura. Can I do this by merely removing the caps and retuning?

A. What you will have is a very loud Vox. Also, the tuning will not stay if the pipes are more than five years old as the brass tongues become brittle at the wire and the pipes tend to want to go back to their original pitch.

Q. I have nine ranks presently, as follows: Tibia, Tuba, Diapason, Clarinet, Salicional, VDO, VDO Celeste, Flute and Vox. If I were to add three more ranks, what would be your choice, and in what order?

A. If you were to ask twelve organ builders what they would recommend, you would get twelve different answers. However, here would be my choices: (1) Brass Trumpet (or close equivalent in pipe metal), (2) English Horn, (3) Krumet or Orchestral Oboe.

Correction Department: In the December-January issue, there was an error that had to do with the size of a reservoir. It stated the size as 24' x 4'. It should have read 2' x 4'.

Q. Is there any way to tell from the mouth, or scale, what wind pressure certain pipes are designed for?

A. There is no way to determine upon inspection of mouth cut-ups what wind pressure is proper. However, common sense will tell you that unusually high cut-ups will indicate high pressures. Also, if the toe hole is very small and cut-up high, this could mean medium to high wind with the toe hole closed to prevent overblowing. Large toes could indicate low wind since admitting this much air through a large toe opening could easily overblow the pipe. Also, just gently blowing on the pipes will give you some indication of wind

pressure. Scaling will not tell you much about pressure, either. Large scaled pipework usually means less harmonic development and more power. □

DINNY'S COLYUM

as
transcribed
by
Del Castillo



Here it is February and already I broke most all my Noo Years Resolushuns. One of em was to lern to spel better. I always thought I was a pretty good speler, but Mr. Lloyd Klos he rote me a postal card and he says he always gets a laff out of the way I rite. So I dunno. I aint never tried to rite funny, so if I do it must be I aint as good a riter as I thought I was. So now they is two things I have to do, I have to lern to spel better and I have to lern to play better.

I dunno about the speling. If I have to look up every word to make sure I spel it rite its goin to take a awful long time to get it done. And the worst of it is that if I spelt it rong how am I goin to look it up. Like that word I used up at the top that was Thought. When I rote it I speld it Thot and then seems like I should look it up to play safe, and I never wood have got it rite except that I had the first three letters rite so I could go on from there. But do you know how many words they is that begins with those 3 letters. It must of taken me five minnits to get through all the Thomases and down through — ya see I got that one rite on account it was one of the ones I had to go by to get to Thought. Its kind of discouridgin for a guy my age to start goin to school again, but if I gotta do it why I will jest go and do it.

At that I dunno that it will be any worse than my other Noo Year Resolution to play better. I thought after I finished with Long Long Ago why things was goin to get easier but in-

sted they gets harder. And dont tell me that you can find any cord by puttin your pointin finger on the note that is the name of the cord. Thats the way I started and pretty soon I come up against a cord that says E seven and when I played in in the peace Mr. Castello he most jumped out of his chair and he says whered you get them notes and so I told him why the book says that if I put the letter on my pointin finger why the other fingers they will fall on the rite keys and he looks at me disgusted like and he says why you dummy I got to teach you how to make up a cord so you can play the rite notes whether they come on the black keys or not. Well that was a noo idea to me and I sez why dont this way I been doin work OK and he sez because that was only for beginners to play in the key of C which has only white keys and I see I gotta show you about the other keys that uses the black keys and I sez well I will try anythin oncet but I dont think I can fit my fingers in between them black keys without gettin stuck in there and he sez well they is a way to get around that and I will show you but first you gottaknow about the different keys and I sez why I know about the different keys that if they is sharps or flats why then they is on black keys and he sez I dont mean that dont you know what a scale is and I sez you mean when I play G C and E together and he sez no dummy that is a cord dont you know what a scale is and I sez the only scales I know is the ones on a fish and the ones you use to way things with and he sez I see I gotta take you in hand.

So now hes got my fingers all tied up in nots and you gotta put your thumb under the fingers here and you gotta put your fingers over the thumb there and you gotta play every letter in turn to play the scale which is when you play all seven letters one by one and you haf to know which is hole steps and which is haf steps and I pratically got blisters on the ends of my fingers tryin to do what he sez and if I ever get to play these peaces that has different sets of flats and sharps why it is goin to be a mirakle, but I guess that is what Noo Years Resolutions is for. □

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REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP ON THE PROPOSED BYLAW REVISION CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

Due to a rather drastic change in the California corporate law governing non-profit corporations such as ATOS, the Board of Directors and our ATOS attorney reviewed the bylaw revision submitted by the Ledwon committee and found that they did not conform to this new law. Therefore President Haight appointed another committee to review our existing bylaws and propose such changes as may be required by law. Said committee to consist of board members, officers and regular members.

The committee has been working on this project since late August, 1980, and as of January, 1981, have submitted their version of the proposed changes to our attorney, for his review, and recommended changes he felt necessary to comply with the new law. We will be working very closely with the attorney in the preparation of the final draft that will be submitted to the Board of Directors for their approval. After making such changes, as may be desired by the board, the revised bylaws, as approved by the directors and our attorney, will be presented to the members for approval in keeping with the provisions of the bylaws.

As a matter of information, you should know that the changes proposed by the committee members, the changes required by law, and the input received from ATOS chapters and members have all been taken into consideration by the full committee in making the proposed revisions. For the most part the law required that changes be made in the areas of membership, elections, nominations, expulsion of members, and availability of financial information. Many of the changes required will probably result in a bigger administrative workload, hence more cost. The changes recommended by the committee have more to do with clarifying some of the articles of our existing bylaws. We have added

some sections dealing with chapter involvement and the handling of conventions and annual meetings. Also included were suggestions made by ATOS chapters and members that a majority of the committee felt were needed.

Obviously in a job of this magnitude it is impossible to please everyone, so we are presenting the following items to the full board for a decision.

The majority of the committee were *NOT* in favor of the following proposals and does *NOT* recommend them:

1. Make membership in a local chapter a requirement for national ATOS membership.
2. Allow the spouse of a regular member full membership rights, except for the receipt of THEATRE ORGAN magazine, in return for payment of one-half the regular dues.
3. Limit the number of terms a director can serve.
4. Elect directors on a regional basis.
5. The use of an outside agency to tabulate votes. The committee proposes that this be done by ATOS members as is presently done, but have provided the alternative method of an outside agency if the board so desires. Cost is a big factor if an outside agency is used. (Between \$2,000 and \$3,000).
6. Provide for the election of officers, (president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer) by the entire membership. Our attorney advises against this method of election, as being too unwieldy to handle, plus not being considered good practice.

Submitted for the committee,

W. 'Tiny' James, Chairman
Bylaw Revision
Review Committee □