

CLOSING CHORD

JOSEPH L. BRIGGS

Joseph L. Briggs, who played organs in several Rochester, N.Y., theatres, died on February 22, 1988. He was 84.

A native of Turners Falls, Massachusetts, Mr. Briggs came to Rochester in the twenties and took a year's instruction in organ accompaniment of silent films at the Eastman School of Music. He played organs for the silents in the Arnett, Princess and Regent theatres, and had a stint at the RKO Palace, doing sing-alongs and organludes.

With the advent of the electronics, he played at the R.I.T. ice rink and in the thirties and forties taught organ and piano. A life member of the Rochester Musicians Association, Mr. Briggs is survived by two nephews and a niece.

Lloyd E. Klos

ROSE DIAMOND

Longtime member Rose Diamond died Saturday, February 13. Although she has not been heard playing in many years (she was over 90 at the time of her death) her career goes back to the days of the silents in New York City where she was one of the first female organists to break into the male-dominated Times Square theatre organ stronghold!

Her first job was playing piano at the "Fox Japanese Garden" atop the RKO theatre at 96th and Broadway. Her big break came when she was appointed to play the four-manual Moller in the Loew's State. She did regular radio broadcasts, many of them over the full NBC radio network, playing this organ as well as the four-manual Moller in the Waldorf-Astoria's ballroom and the three-manual instrument in that hotel's Peacock Room. Later she was heard playing the organ at the Barbizon Hotel and the lobby Kimball at the Roxy Theatre!

Moving to California in the '40s, she played the cocktail circuit throughout the Southland and won acclaim for her novelty arrangements and Latin rhythms. One of her last professional appearances was in the award-winning Dustin Hoffman film *The Graduate* where she was the befuddled, nearsighted organist in the wedding scene.

Her theme song was "To a Wild Rose," but she was a darling woman and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

from LATOS OrganLog

ORGAN-IZING

POPULAR MUSIC

by
AL HERMANN



Another kind of substitute chord is what I call the "surprise" chord. These chords do not follow the Circle of 5ths and the root is usually not a member of the scale or key in which the song is written. As a result, they are noticeable because the listener does not expect to hear them.

In the key of C, the best "surprise" chords are D_b7 and A_b. Play the following examples with full chords and the root of each chord on the pedals. Listen to the difference.

Notice two things about the D_b7 chord. First: it causes the pedal bass notes to move downward (D-D_b-C) while the melody moves upward. This always creates a good musical effect. Second: if you will play the 3rd and 7th of the G7 and D_b7 chords, you will find that they are the same notes reversed. The 3rd of G7 is the 7th of D_b7, and the 7th of G7 is the 3rd of D_b7. Also, these chords are on opposite sides of the circle of 5ths.

Many songs end with II7 V7 I chords. When this occurs, play the major chord that is 1/2 tone above the V7 chord instead of the expected I chord. Listen to the difference.

In order to make these chord substitutions useful to you, it will be necessary to understand the procedures and then figure them out in the five common keys in which most popular songs are written: C - F - G - B_b - E_b.

The rules are: 1. The 7th chord built on the flat 2nd tone of the scale can be substituted for the V7 chord, depending on the melody notes; 2. The major chord built on the flat 6th tone of the scale can be substituted for the final I chord in most songs. This sounds best when the melody moves upward to the last note. After one measure, this flat V7 chord should resolve to the I chord.

Play the last eight measures of many songs and try these chord substitutions. You cannot use both of them in the same measures. The flat II7 must be followed by the I chord. The flat VI chord must follow the V7 chord.

You will find that this is not at all difficult if you will take the time to study and practice it.