

**“Organ”izing Keyboard Students...
an idea for teachers of keyboard instruments**

by Lucy G. Ingram

Plan a summer “mini-term” (6 weeks–2 months) to *Discover the Organ*[®]. Notify parents and students at the last piano lesson in December that this opportunity is going to occur beginning the week after school is out for the summer. This gives everyone plenty of advance notice. Teachers’ schedules must be flexible: e.g., some students will be in year-round schools; therefore, a later time of day might be best. Students purchase their own books so that they can practice between sessions, preparing pieces and the written work that has been assigned. Group lessons, one a week, of 4, 6, or 8 students work very well. I would suggest using *Discover the Organ*[®]: *Basic Organ Repertoire Series* for students who have some experience reading music and the primer series of *Discover the Basics*[®] for beginners.

Arrange to take the groups on “field trips”—maybe one each week. Ask organists in your area if they would be willing to demonstrate the instruments in their churches or homes and also to talk about how a particular organ fits into the overall scope of the types of instruments within the historic development of the organ world.

You’d be surprised how well it works in these “field trips” to include in the same group(s) students of different levels of advancement: beginners can draw inspiration from more experienced players. Using pp. 12 & 13, “Organ Crawl” from *Organ Adventures*, Vol. I*, each student may keep his own journal.

These “field trips” will be very attractive to the students and will provide them the opportunity to play these instruments after hearing them demonstrated. This will be fascinating as well as educational.

**Organ Adventures*, Volume I, by Leslie Wolf, Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc. (WL600114).

Lucy Ingram studied piano and organ at the Eastman School of Music where she majored in piano performance. Lucy has taught piano for over thirty years at all levels in both her private studio and at several colleges and universities in Greensboro, North Carolina. She brings a very wide teaching experience to her role as co-editor of Discover the Basics[®]: A Beginning Series for Any Keyboard Instrument.