



Modern Keyboard Technique

Edited by **WAYNE LEUPOLD**

The note and staff sizes are larger than normal to compensate for the possible long distances between the students' eyes and the organ music racks. Compositions based on hymn tunes include both the title of a commonly used text, given first, as well as the tune name, which appears beneath in uppercase letters. We welcome comments regarding this volume or others in this method, as well as suggestions for new volumes. Please direct comments and suggestions to: Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc., 8510 Triad Drive, Colfax, NC 27235. Phone and fax: (336) 996-8445.

POSITION AT THE ORGAN

BENCH PLACEMENT: Adjust the placement of the bench so the arms, when slightly extended, can comfortably reach the bottom manual or keyboard. Adjust the bench height so the elbows are slightly higher than the lower arms which should be parallel to the lower manual or keyboard. Measure to be certain the bench is parallel with the console.

POSITION AND POSTURE: Sit centered in front of the F-G in the middle octave of the keyboard. Sit straight while keeping the shoulders relaxed. Place all the fingers and both thumbs on the keys; curve the fingers slightly while keeping the hands relaxed. *Gently* press the keys with the fingers.

OPTIONAL PEDALS: If the feet reach the pedals, adjust the bench so the feet fall naturally straight down, directly in front of the black keys. Adjust the bench height so both toes and heels touch the pedals but do not drag on them. If the pedals are to be played, first place the feet in the centering position on the pedalboard by silently resting the left foot on Pedal middle C and the right foot on Pedal middle G. Play the pedals with the inside edge—the ball or the toe—of each foot. Press and release the pedal keys from the ankle with a gentle motion of a relaxed ankle (no leg motion). In compositions not using pedal, place the feet on the footrest under the bench.

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