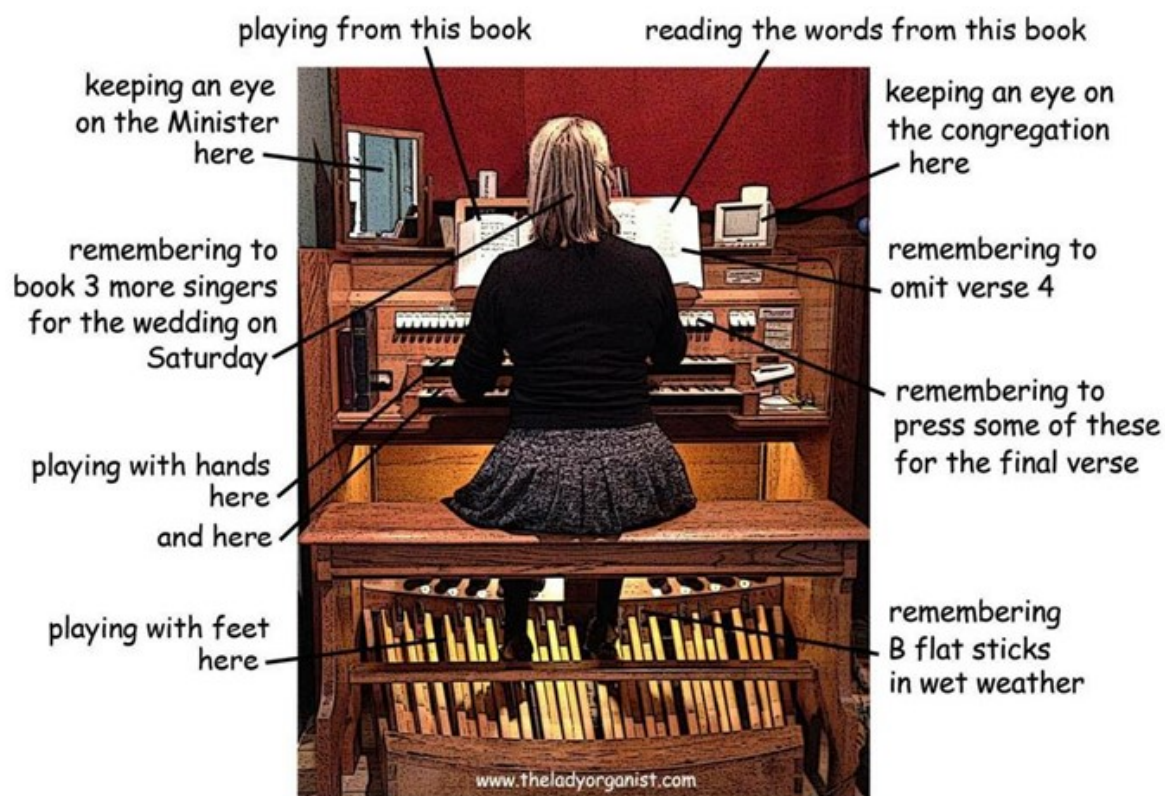


Console and Manual Names

The Console

The average person sees the console of a pipe (or pipeless) organ and says, "Oh look, there's an organ." Keep in mind that the console (control center) is only one part of the organ, not *the organ*.

The console is where the organist sits and controls *everything*, all at once. Organists must be quick, agile, able to multi-task, keep calm under pressure, and be flexible.



THE CHURCH ORGANIST



Organ consoles come in all shapes and sizes.



Wait! There's more!



Church organs with two or three manuals are the most common. It is not terribly common to find four-manual organs, and it is even less common to come across five-manual organs.

FUN FACT: There are six, six-manual organs in the world.



Macy's Wanamaker Store
Philadelphia, PA, USA
463 ranks



Lichen Bazylika Matki Bozej
Lichenskiej, Poland
222 ranks



Mainz Cathedral
Mainz, Germany
166 ranks



Stiftsbasilika
Waldassen, Germany
141 ranks



There is one seven-manual organ in the world:

Atlantic City Convention Hall
Atlantic City, NJ, USA
449 ranks

NOTE: bottom two keyboards have 88 keys instead of 61, third manual from bottom 73 keys.



Yes! One-manual pipe organs exist.

Manual Names

Manuals are the keyboards on which the hands play. Think of each manual being its own organ. Also, the pedal keyboard, for the feet, is its own organ.

TWO MANUALS

U.S.A./England

II Swell
I Great

France

II Récit
I Grand Orgue

Germany

II Oberwerk
I Hauptwerk

Holland

II Bovenwerk
I Hoofdwerk

THREE MANUALS

III Swell
II Great

III Récit
II Positif
I Grand Orgue

III Oberwerk
II Hauptwerk
I Rückpositiv**

III Bovenwerk
II Hoofdwerk
I Rugwerk**

FOUR MANUALS

IV Solo
III Swell
II Great
I Choir* (or Positiv)

IV Bombarde
III Récit
II Positif
I Grand Orgue

IV Brustwerk
III Oberwerk
II Hauptwerk
I Rückpositiv**

IV Borstwerk
III Bovenwerk
II Hoofdwerk
I Rugwerk**

*Choir = derivation of *chair*

**Rück or Rug (roog) = *back*

FOUR and FIVE MANUALS

In the U.S.A., the names of the fourth and fifth manuals can vary from organ to organ. Commonly, these manuals take on one of the following names:

Solo
Bombarde
String
Antiphonal
Ethereal
Echo

FLOATING DIVISIONS

Some organs have FLOATING divisions, meaning that the division does not have its own reserved manual, but can be assigned to any existing manual by means of a device called a coupler. More about couplers at a later time.

