

1. INTRODUCTION

The organ program constitutes 7 years of study, divided into 3 cycles: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced.

The course is presented along with a complete musical formation, from sight singing, to harmony and counterpoint, Gregorian chant, etc.

A grade of organ studies is referred normally to one academic year (30 weekly lessons), divided into two semesters of 15 lessons, 45 minutes each.

At the end of each cycle, and after successfully achieving the required organ and music formation studies, the student is granted the end-of-cycle diploma.

2. PREREQUISITES

In order to enroll in the organ studies, the student must have completed the following courses:

1. Sight Singing, Grade III
2. Music Theory, Grade III
3. Complementary Piano, Grade III
4. Harmony, Grade II
5. Counterpoint and Fugue, Grade I

Based on the teacher's assessment, a student may be accepted in the course without fulfilling one or several of the prerequisite courses. However, to be eligible to present the end-of-cycle exam (therefore pass into an upper cycle), the student should have achieved all the required courses.

3. SCHEDULE

The table below is the recommended timeline for the organ study program:

	Prerequisites				Cycle I Beginner			Cycle II Intermediate				Cycle III Advanced		
	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9		10	11	
Organ					I	II	End-of-Cycle-I	III	IV	V	End-of-Cycle-II	VI	VII	End-of-Cycle-III
Sight singing	P	I	II	III										
Music theory		I	II	III										
Piano (complementary)	P	I	II	III	IV	V								
Harmony and counterpoint			P	I	II	III		IV						
History and analysis					I	II		III	IV					
Organology (organ)								I						
Gregorian Chant									I	II		III	IV	
Music appreciation						I, II								
Basics of sound								I, II						
Free electives									I	II		III	IV	

4. CURRICULUM

4.1. Grade I

Bossi-Tebaldini: Exercises and scales for pedal (selection)

Oreste Ravanello: 100 studies for organ (selection)

Michael Schneider: 24 studies for organ (selection)

Joseph Renner: Trios for organ (selection)

Johann Sebastian Bach: Easy chorals: Neumaster, Orgelbuchlein, etc. (selection)

Eight small preludes and fugues (selection)

Improvisation of cadences and modulations to closely related keys

4.2. Grade II

Bossi-Tebaldini: Exercises and scales for pedal (selection)

Michael Schneider: 24 studies for organ (selection)

Roberto Remondi: Studies for organ (selection)

Joseph Renner: Trios for organ (selection)

Joseph Gabriel Rheinberger: Trios for organ (selection)

Johann Sebastian Bach: Easy chorals: Neumaster, Orgelbuchlein, etc. (selection)

Eight small preludes and fugues (selection)

Improvisation of cadences and modulations to closely related keys

4.3. Grade III

Fernando Germani: Method for organ (selection)

Girolamo Frescobaldi: Ricerars and melodies (selection)

Fiori musicali (selection)

Johann Sebastian Bach: Chorals' predules from the Orgelbuchlein (selection)

Preludes and fugues (selection)
Fantasies and fugues (selection)

César Franck: Prelude, fugue, and variations

Felix Mendelssohn: Sonata N. 2

Prelude and fugue in G Major

Easy pieces in ancient keys

4.4. Grade IV

Girolamo Frescobaldi: First and second toccatas books (selection)

Fiori musicali (selection)

Johann Sebastian Bach: Preludes and fugues (selection)

Toccatas and fugues (selection)

One Sonata in Trio

One transcribed concerto

César Franck: Pastorale

Felix Mendelssohn: Sonatas (selection)

Preludes and fugues (selection)

Selection from the organ anthology (Buxtehude, Bohm, Bruhns, Couperin, Sweelinck, D'Anglebert, Froberger, etc.)

4.5. Grade V

Girolamo Frescobaldi: First and second toccatas books (selection)

Fiori musicali (selection)

Johann Sebastian Bach: Preludes and fugues (selection)

Toccatas and fugues (selection)

One Sonata in Trio

Chorals' preludes (selection)

César Franck: Major organ piece

4.6. Grade VI

Johann Sebastian Bach: Prelude and fugue in E-flat Major

Prelude and fugue in D Major

Toccatas, adagio, and fugue in C Major

Chorals' preludes (Leipzig chorals, third part of the

Klavierübung)

One Sonata in Trio

César Franck: Three chorals

Marco-Enrico Bossi: Symphonic study

Major organ piece

Paul Hindemith: Sonatas (selection)

Major organ piece

Selection from the major works of Widor, Vierne, Dupré, Duruflé, Messiaen, Liszt, and Reger.

4.7. Grade VII

Johann Sebastian Bach: Prelude and fugue in E-flat Major

Prelude and fugue in D Major

Toccata, adagio, and fugue in C Major

Chorals' preludes (Leipzig chorals, third part of
the Klavierübung)

One Sonata in Trio

César Franck: Three chorals

Marco-Enrico Bossi: Symphonic study

Major organ piece

Paul Hindemith: Sonatas (selection)

Major organ piece

Selection from the major works of Widor, Vierne, Dupré, Duruflé, Messiaen, Liszt, and Reger.

5. COMPLEMENTARY PIANO CURRICULUM

5.1. Preparatory grade Rf. NDU School Of Music Sight singing curriculum

5.2. Grade I

Major scales and arpeggios in parallel motion

Preparatory exercises for the staccato, trimmed notes, trills, thirds, etc.

Selection of studies from Loeschorn (op181), Heller (op47), and Czerny (op849)

Small preludes and fugues from Bach's Anna-Magdalena Notebook

Selection of sonatinas and easy pieces by Clementi (op35), Beethoven, and Schumann (op68)

5.3. Grade II

Major and minor scales and arpeggios in parallel motion

Selection of studies from Heller (op46) and Czerny (op636)

Bach's Two-Parts Inventions

Selection of easy sonatas by Haydn and Mozart

Mendelssohn's Kinderstuck (op72)

5.4. Grade III

Major and minor scales and arpeggios in parallel and opposite motions, in thirds and sixths

Selection of studies from Cramer (50 studies) and Czerny (op299)

Bach's French Suites

Selection of easy sonatas by Clementi and Mozart

Selection of easy sonatas by Schubert and Schumann

5.5. Grade IV

Major and minor scales and arpeggios in parallel and opposite motions, in thirds and sixths

Selection of studies from Cramer (50 studies), Heller (op45), and Czerny (op740)

Bach's Three-Parts Inventions and English Suites

Selection of sonatas Mozart and Beethoven

Selection of Chopin's easy pieces

5.6. Grade V

Selection of Clementi's Gradus ad parnassum

Selection of Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier

Beethoven's sonatas N. 4, 5, and 9

6. END-OF-CYCLE EXAMS

6.1. End-of-Cycle I exam

One chosen study (out of 10) from the Bossi-Tebaldini organ method

One chosen study (out of 6) from the Schneider organ studies book

One Trio of Renner or Reinberger

Improvisation on a given small harmonic cycle

6.2. End-of-Cycle II exam

One chosen Bach's Prelude and Fugue (out of 2)

One chosen piece (out of 3) from Frescobaldi's Toccatas or Fiori Musicale

One Mendelssohn sonata

One of Franck's following pieces: Pièce Héroïque, Pastorale in E-flat Major, or Prelude, fugue and variations in B minor

Sight-transposition of an easy fragment (one-tone higher or lower)

Interpretation of an easy imposed piece (3 hours study time)

Accompaniment of a Gregorian syllabic melody in the first tone

Sight-reading a vocal piece in ancient keys

Composition of a 2-part fugue for organ on a given theme (8 hours)

6.3. End-of-Cycle III exam

One of Bach's following pieces: Passacalia in C minor, Fantasy and fugue in G minor, Prelude and triple fugue in E-flat Major, or Prelude and fugue in D Major

One major Bach's choral, from Leipzig chorals or the third part of the Kalvierbung

One of Franck's following pieces: Three chorals, Prière in C minor

Or: One of the following Franck's following pieces: Pièce Héroïque, Theme and Variations, or Symphonic Study

One contemporary/modern piece

Interpretation of an easy imposed piece (3 hours study time)

Improvization of a small prelude or piece on a given theme

Composition of a 3-part fugue for organ on a given theme (12 hours)

Composition of a motet for organ on a given text (10 hours)

Test on the organ culture, Gregorian chant history, as well as organ teaching methods

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COSIMO PRONTERA

Cosimo Prontera is the Organ and Organ Composition teacher at the Gesualdo da Venosa conservatory in Italy, as well as founder and director of the baroque orchestra, La Confraternita dei Musici.

He has collaborated with international figures such as violinists Enrico Gatti, Stefano Montanari, Francesco d'Orazio, and Federico Guglielmo; flutist Marcello Gatti; singers Gemma Bertagnolli, Paolo Lopez, Sara Mingardo, and Gloria Banditelli; and cellists Christophe Coin and Gaetano Nasillo.

In 2003, he published his first technical book, "Le Composizioni per Tastiera," based on the compositions of Leonardo Leo, and he is currently working on his second book titled, "The Partimenti and the Cello Concertos."

He has numerous recordings with Tactus International Records and Bongiovanni labels, such as:

- Leonardo Leo: Serenate e candate (tc693701)
- Drusilla and Don Stradone, Intermezzi of Joseph Sellito (tc706901)
- Leonardo Leo: La musica per stanza (tc693702)

- Various composers: Magnificat and Salve Regina (tc693703)
- Le Finte Contesse, comic opera by Giovanni Paisiello (GB 2 462/63-2)