

# THE ORGAN CONSOLE

## AGO Achievement Award – Requirements



**To be completed at the organ console. If a demonstration is called for but items are not present on your console, a good description will do:**

1. Find the nameplate on the organ console and identify as many of the following as possible: the builder, year of construction, and opus number or model number. Explain what an opus number is. *If this information is not available on the organ*, tell your mentor about an organ builder of your choice: include birth and death dates and a few facts about the builder, such as location, tonal philosophy, technical innovations, etc.
2. How many stops are represented in the following stoplist? How many ranks? Describe the difference between a rank and a stop.
  - Diapason 8'
  - Gedackt 8'
  - Viola Celeste 8' II
  - Octave 4'
  - Super Octave 2'
  - Mixture III
3. Describe at least two important mechanisms (types of key action) in which the motion of the key is transferred to the valve underneath the pipe.
4. Point out the keyboards that correspond to the most important manual divisions of the organ (Great, Swell, Pedal, Choir and/or Positiv). Discuss with your mentor what you have observed to be some of the characteristics of each division.
5. Describe the location of the expression (swell) pedal relative to the pedal keys, and the crescendo pedal relative to the expression (swell) pedal. On your organ, demonstrate and explain how each of them work.
6. Demonstrate how to navigate to an available memory level, and then explain how general and divisional thumb pistons and toe studs (toe pistons) operate. Point them out.
7. How do *reversible* pistons differ from those identified in #6 above? Demonstrate.
8. Describe and demonstrate each of the following:
  - Two or three types of stop controls
  - Toe studs (toe pistons)
  - General cancel
9. Describe couplers and demonstrate how they operate.
10. Show or explain the correct way to shut off a pipe organ and leave it for next time.

### LEARNING RESOURCES

Note: Many resources are available that can help you through the requirements. Following is a list of a few well-established titles that might be readily accessible.

Don Cook, *OrganTutor Organ 101*, Registration: Introduction to the Organ Console (online tutorial available free to AGO members. Visit [agohq.org](http://agohq.org) > Education tab > New Organist).

Roger E. Davis, *The Organists' Manual*, Appendix B: The Organ, A General Description (pages 185-190).

Harold Gleason, *Method of Organ Playing*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition. Part 1: The Organ (pages 3-5).

Wayne Leupold, *First Organ Book*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Part One: An Introduction to the Organ (pages 3-4).

George H. Ritchie/George B. Stauffer, *Organ Technique: Modern and Early*. Appendix: The Organ (pages 372-377).

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## AGO Achievement Award – Candidate Record



\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of completion

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date awarded

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