

DEAR UNCLE MAX

Send questions to Dear Uncle Max, AGO National Headquarters, 475 Riverside Dr., Suite 1260, New York, NY 10115.

Would you suggest some Toccatas for younger organists, junior high through high school. I am thinking of students who have good keyboard skills but little experience with the pedals.

J.G.D., Mass.

I will be glad to suggest a short list that you might consider. I am thinking of Toccata in the broadest possible way as anything that might show off either the organist or the organ. Young and beginning students need music they can play that gives them and their listeners satisfaction and makes them feel they are on their way! I hope the list will jump-start your thinking. There are always those weeks for all of us when we are frustrated getting ready for church; most listed compositions might serve that purpose as well.

1. Andriessen, Hendrik. *Sonata da Chiesa* (Finale). Edward B. Marks or J.R. van Rossum, the Netherlands.

2. Bach, J.S. C-major and B-flat-major Prelude and Fugue from the *Eight Little Preludes and Fugues*. Don't worry about authorship—nice pieces and a usual first in the Prelude and Fugue category.

Toccata in D Minor (the famous one; the Fugue is not too hard).

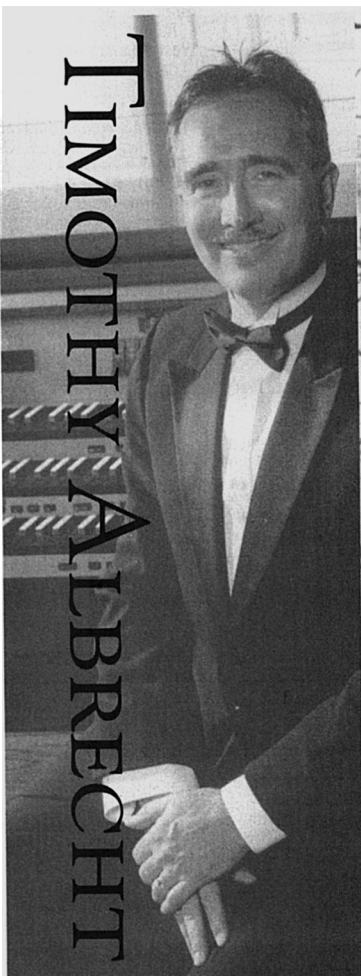
3. Biggs, Richard Keys. *Toccata on "Deo gratias."* McLaughlin and Reilly, or in *Organ Music for Celebration and Praise*, Summy-Birchard, p. 9. Particularly rewarding for young players; good for everyone.

4. Boëllmann, Léon. *Toccata (Suite gothique)*. Octaves at the end may be too much (use supers and throw on Trombone?).

5. Dello Joio, Norman. *Caccia (Five Lyric Pieces)*. E.B. Marks. Not so much a Toccata but can be rewarding. Pieces in this set were originally piano pieces.

6. Dupré, Marcel. *Eight Short Preludes on Gregorian Themes*. McLaughlin and Reilly (newly reissued). Nos. II (Virgo Dei genetrix) and VIII (Verbum supernum) are written on two staves but could use optional pedal, though not indicated.

7. Drischner, Max. *Choralvorspiele für Dorfororganisten*. C.L. Schultheiss, Tübingen. Especially "Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier" and "Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren." One to



TIMOTHY ALBRECHT

In dulci Jubilo.

**"...ever present
artistry and virtuosity"**
FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG

For recitals and master classes, contact:
Mary Ellen Templeton
Concert Manager
Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia 30322
email: libmet@emory.edu
404.727.0144

Atlanta's Emory University Organist

Gilbert F. Adams

Organbuilder

5104 Unionville Road
Monroe, NC 28110
(704) 283-0552



ORGAN BUILDERS

L. W. BLACKINTON
and associates, inc.

380 FRONT ST.
EL CAJON, CA. 92020

two pages long; no pedals required. And from *Choralvorspiele für Orgel*, same publisher, "Dir, dir, Jehova, will ich singen" and "Alles ist an Gottes Segen." Easy pedal parts.

8. Gigout, Eugène. *Toccata (Dix Pièces pour Orgue)*. Alphonse Leduc. Probably, like the Boëllmann, for the not too young.

9. Langlais, Jean. *Pasticcio (Organ Book)*. Elkan-Vogel. Useful for many occasions.

10. Lemmens, Jacques-Nicolas. *Fanfare*. H.W. Gray. Often found in organ method books with variously altered endings. Fun to play and good for evolving technique.

11. Pinkham, Daniel. *Toccata (Revelations)*. E.C. Schirmer. Crisp, fresh, and rewarding.

12. Schroeder, Hermann. *Toccata (Pezzi Piccoli)*. McLaughlin and Reilly

or Gordon V. Thompson Ltd., Toronto, Canada. Little pedalwork.

13. Titcomb, Everett. *Toccata (Themes from the Gregorian "Salve Regina")*. H.W. Gray. Effective.

Two oldies:

14. Nevin, Gordon Balch. *Toccata in D Minor*. Gamble Hinged Music Co., Chicago. Dedicated to Wm. C. Carl. Especially good for the very young, as its repetitive aspect lends itself to easy memorization so they can watch what is happening with their hands.

15. Fletcher, Percy. *Festival Toccata*. H.W. Gray. I confess to never having played this (and doubt I ever will), but the comments from above apply here as well. Has been recently recorded. The last two have more pedagogic than musical value but are certainly good for one or two hearings. The young will enjoy playing them.

MAX B. MILLER, FAGO