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Can the Organ Sound Like a Conga? Leading Cross Cultural Song from the Organ

John Ferguson
St. Olaf College

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Recommended Citation

Ferguson, John, "Can the Organ Sound Like a Conga? Leading Cross Cultural Song from the Organ" (2014). *Symposium on Worship Archive*. 21.

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CAN THE ORGAN SOUND LIKE A CONGA

LEADING CROSS CULTURAL SONG FROM THE ORGAN

CALVIN COLLEGE – JANUARY 2014

John Ferguson

**Elliot and Klara Stockdal Johnson Emeritus Professor of Organ and Church Music
St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN**

I. Concepts

- A. Vocal music – transcription (improvisation)
- B. Breathe!
- D. Tactus and tempo
- C. Repeated notes

II. The Trust Factor - Consistency

IV. Play Text

- A. Music as rhetoric
- B. Organist as exegete

V. Global Song at the Organ

- A. Folk Song – regional accents – adapt, not adopt
- B. Similarities
 - 1. Theatre Organ
 - a. RH tune (16' tone)
 - b. LH accompaniment
 - c. Ped. tactus, counterpoint
 - 2. Be where they are not
 - 3. Registration
- C. Examples
 - 1. Folk song
 - 2. Spiritual
 - 3. Gospel
 - 4. Native American
 - 5. Israeli
 - 6. Jamican Folk
 - 7. African
 - 8. Confession Time

- VI. Comments on Practice
 - A. Manuscript Paper
 - B. Record Yourself
 - C. Play for others

VIII. Resources

Hymn Playing: A Modern Colloquium, Stuart Forster, Morningstar, 90-44

Let the People Sing! A Keyboardist's Creative and Practical Guide to Engaging God's People in Meaningful Song, David Cherwien, Concordia, ISBN 0-570-01354-2

Leading the Church's Song, Robert Buckley Farlee, general editor (includes CD demonstration tracks), Augsburg, ISBN 0-8066-3591-6

Music Manuscript Paper

Many and Great: Introductions and Accompaniments for Global Hymns, John Ferguson, Morningstar MSM-10-767

CD Recordings St. Olaf Choir – *Great Hymns of Faith*, Vols I, II & III

Christmas in Boe Memorial Chapel, John Ferguson, organ and instrumentalists

(St. Olaf CD recordings all available through St. Olaf Records 1-800-363-5487)

St. Olaf Cantorei – *Songs of Grateful Praise* – A sing for Joy Hymn Festival

St. Olaf Cantorei – *Hidden in Humbleness*, GIA CD-594 *A Thousand Ages*, GIA

CD-474, *Te Deum*, GIA CD-321

Sweet Manna (Alice Parker and Melodious Accord), GIA CD-434

Take Me to the Water (Alice Parker, Pamela Warrick-Smith and Melodious

Accord), GIA CD-329