



CD Range Still Packs a Punch!

The first Article in a new series from Club Member Ben Scott-Hyde.

OAS is the talk of the town - every site in the electronic organ world is geared (in most part) towards the recent range of Wersi instruments known as the OAS range. You cannot blame these sites, after all the OAS organ is a marvellous instrument which has broken ground in organ technology and has allowed the organist more freedom and features than possibly any other organ on the market.

But what is there for those of us who, for one reason or another, are still using the CD range of Wersi organs?

Well, in short, not a lot really.

You can find tutorials on various organ web sites and clubs that offer tips on various downloads and orchestration ideas for OAS, Forums for what to do if it all goes wrong (a Wersi going wrong??!!) and some marvellous top tips from players on how to get that professional sound.

But, for the CD range, you will struggle a little.

However, we are now (thanks to wersiclub.co.uk) able to change all of the above.

Over the coming months, I hope to compile an on-line "hints and tips" manual for the CD range. Now, I must state that this will be based on the Spectra (as that is the instrument that I own) but it is 99% compatible with every other CD organ (ie Gala, Delta etc).

This will not be a basic manual for operating the organ such as you would expect when you first buy an organ or keyboard, but rather a guide for things that these manuals don't mention.

For example, Drawbar settings. Most Wersi organists love the sound of the Wersi Drawbar and that is often the reason why they are drawn to the Wersi in the first place. But to actually get your organ sounding like Klaus or Franz? Well, that's the hard bit! You won't find the "Klaus Wunderlich Drawbar Setting" page in your Spectra Manual, or in the manual written by Klaus himself (of which I have a copy). In fact, unless you know a pretty learned organist, you will struggle to find the sound at all!

Don't fret, though. This is what this page is going to be all about. Through my own theory and practice, and from readers writing to us to share their favourite registrations, we will list every possible sound and set up that we can think of, on this very page!

If you have a sound that you really want to recreate, then e-mail the site and I will try my best to get it for you and tell you how to achieve it.

Now, remember - not all the sounds you hear from the professionals are available from your Wersi straight away. 50/60% are, and you will be surprised how close you probably are (just a couple of tweaks here and there can make all the difference) but the other 40% requires one of two options:

1st Option - The spectra offers us a facility in the very depths of the organ to create our own sounds. This is done by taking all sorts of things into consideration (ie waves etc) and we will not go into this right now. To try to recreate an artiste's distinctive sound by this method is a very long and painstaking process and you need to have a very knowledgeable musical mind to get the right factors set correctly. So, let's leave this option for now, and we will come back to it at a later date.

2nd Option - The easier, but more expensive option, is to buy the sound/memory cards. These are available from certain dealers in the UK or direct from Germany. I get mine directly from a company in Germany and have never had a problem. You're looking at between £30 to £50 depending on what sound card you want. Ebay has many sound cards on at most times, but these tend to be Wersi Factory sounds and won't give you the artiste sounds you may be craving. I use a company called "CD Soft". E-mail me for further info.

My favourite sound card I have purchased is called "Klaus Wunderlich a Tribute 1". This has some fantastic sounds on including : KW Sax, Mantovani Strings, and most of the sounds found from the Klaus CD "Classic a la Wunderlich". There is also a couple of good KW drawbar sounds for the full DB sound.

Trust me on this one - if you buy the above card you will transform your organ into something wonderful - your Wersi will sound fantastic!

If, however, you don't want to splash out on these expensive cards, not all is lost. While you will not be able to fully recreate the sounds you hear on albums from the Wersi artistes, with this page's help we can get you 90% of the way there.

With this being my first update, I haven't any questions from anyone asking for tips or registration ideas, so I will have to "wing" it on this occasion.

So, for my first Registration for you (being a massive KW fan (if you hadn't already worked that one out)) I will give you the ultimate Klaus Drawbar sound, short of having the memory card.

Now remember, you won't find this printed in a manual anywhere - I haven't found it anywhere on the internet apart from on the odd forum that I have already published these registrations on.

6084242584 + sinus klick + Chorus

Ensure you use Wersi Voice 1 and that your reverb setting is on 2 with the stop slide pulled out to 6.

Try this out - if you don't like it, there really is something wrong with you and perhaps you should think about maybe learning the flute or something! Only joking!!

Another good one to try is :

8688565588 + Deep + Chorus

This is best used for top melody but is a bit too heavy for using with fat chords.

There is some feeling from Wersi owners that the quality of the drawbar units differ from organ to organ. Now, personally I don't hold much to this idea. It could have applied to the old kit organs Wersi used to supply, but generally I think that this can be considered, for want of a better saying, an old wives' tale. You should be able to get the right result from your organ at home.

Now, I have been focusing a lot on registrations. I will also be offering playing techniques and set-up ideas for your organ, but I will wait until you ask questions before I go on to those.

On a final note, please realise that I am not a professional organist. I am in no way affiliated to Wersi or any of their products. I am, simply, a Wersi owner who has had to teach himself how to get the best out of his organ, and I'm still learning! It's taken me a long time to find the information I now know, and 95% I had to work out for myself. The point of this page is so that you will not have to go through what I had to.

So, if you have any questions on anything CD related, or have any tips yourself, then please e-mail me at benscott-hyde@lycos.com and I will do my best to answer them or post them up.

Happy Playing,
Ben.