

## Wersi Seminar, Wersi Club USA, October 2007

Here is a run down on the two day seminar held in Lancaster, PA. Oct 20-21, 2007 at the Park Plaza Hotel, located on RT. 30. Not all the materials are discussed here because it would cover too much space.

Members arrived on Oct. 19 to be able to start the first day's seminar at 9:30 on the 20th. This gave us all a chance to meet each other and find out where we all came from. We had members from the Pa. area, Virginia, S. Carolina, Florida, Canada and the Phila. area. The next morning we were ready to go at 9:30 AM.

Ralph Conti, who runs Wersi in Lancaster, was on hand to greet us, giving us all hand-outs with many functions and how to use them. Ralph stepped us thru them, one by one. Many of us were asked to come up front and carry out each function on the Scala model. Those who had the EX1 Expander got a chance to try out the functions on a Wersi Gala that was also provided by Ralph. Some of the more complex functions were explained in detail with several of us actually setting up the Wersis.

We now know how to put a second voice on the upper manual and to set up the volume pedal to have the second voice come in when the pedal is depressed near full volume. The example we performed was piano on the first selector with Strings on the second selector. When playing the piano with the expression pedal full up, we were able to bring in the strings when pressing down on the pedal. Nice effect for many songs.

We practiced splitting the keyboards, both upper and lower. One lesson taught us to split the upper keyboard with chimes on the left side of the manual and a Oboe on the right side. The lower manual had a Church sound for voice 1, plus a Strings Attack voice for the second voice. By going into the accomp., then the advanced screen, we were able to set up the volume pedal so the strings would come in with the Church sound when the expression pedal was depressed. Using "Adeste Fideles" for an example, we could play the Oboe with the Church accomp., use the chimes for accents, play both hands on the lower manual and be able to bring in the strings by depressing the vol. pedal. This made a great preset with four sounds. No need to have another preset for this carol, the one preset did it all. After discussion about how to use these presets to advantage we broke for lunch, being able to be with each other in the dining room and review what had taken place.

Lunch over, we were back in the classroom for more instruction. The song "Liebestraum" was introduced as a fine example of using the piano and string combination with the expression pedal set so that the strings came in as the pedal was depressed. These are the little things that make the instrument sound professional and impress the listener. The lessons above can be used in so many ways with so many songs. Next, we had a lot of fun with the 40s tune "Pennsylvania 6-5000". Using the effect button function, we recorded our voice in unison, speaking "Pennsylvania 6-5000" into the microphone. Next we recorded "Pennsylvania 6-5-0-0-0."

Now we set up the Wersi Scala with a Trombone set at minus100 and voice two, a muted trumpet, set at 100. The lower manual was split at D3 with voice one a jazz guitar set at "0", raised 2 octaves. Voice two was a jazz vocal mixed set at "0" with dynamics ON and lowered 1 octave. For the pedals, we chose pedal bass 1, raised 1 octave. The style for this tune was Big Band 2, under the swing style. The tempo was set at 130. Also the left footswitch was assigned to ON/OFF so the rhythm could be stopped and have time to insert "Pennsylvania" 6-5000 from the effect buttons. It was noted that the vol. drawbars need to be set so that the sounds are properly balanced. This is so important in all presets so that the vol. levels are pleasing to the ear. When we got to hear this song, it was a blast!. Playing the Trombone for melody with a sudden muted trumpet coming in (Pressing the vol. pedal down to make it happen) made the song closely resemble the orig. arrangement. At the proper time (a little tricky) the effect button was pressed and out came "PA. 6-5000". Later in the song the effect button was pressed to hear "PA 6-5-0-0-0". Hey, we were sounding real professional. What fun it was to bring the song to life and to have it sound so professional.

With a little help from people like Ralph Conti, we were introduced to whole new ways to make music with excellent results. A discussion followed about how great it was to be together and sharing and learning. We went on with other song setups, using the techniques we had been taught. Day one was over all too soon but with a much greater understanding of our Wersis.

Day two introduced us to Bill Horn, noted teacher and clinician, who gave us a very detailed description of the drawbars and how to use them. After showing us drawbar basic configurations, Bill sat at the Wersi Scala and played several examples using the drawbars to create jazz, swing, plus other styles. Bill also showed us some nice little tricks playing the drawbars. What a difference drawbars can make and sound when taught how to properly use them. Bill also mentioned the fact the most of us fell in love with the organ because of the organ sounds. He told us that the combination of organ and piano, organ and strings, organ as a background for other solo instruments make the organ sounds so important. Hammond was, of course, the first organ to use drawbars. Laurens Hammond was way ahead of his time. How proud he would be today to see almost every organ built is carrying some sort of drawbar configuration.

The gals in our group got together and had a fun time showing our love for him with a bit of a skit. It truly demonstrated how much we all care for Bill. A discussion followed Bill's class with news of the newer larger screen that is being built into all the new Wersi Instruments. A kit is available to update the Abacus, Verona, Scala and Louvre with the new screen. The new OS 7 software was discussed in detail.

A question and answer discussion followed, bringing to an end our two day seminar. We left with much new information that will make our Wersis much more useful. We also got to know other people with the same interests. Looking forward to our next OAS seminar, June 14-15 at the Eden Hotel, where the next Bill Horn show will take place. The dates for the show are June 15 thru 19, 2008, In Lancaster, Pa.

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