



RSCM Beginner Organ Academy

Kick start your learning of the organ and playing in church



About the Course

The Royal School of Church Music's *Beginner Organ Academy* is the beginner's organ course for all musicians, regardless of prior experience. The course equips participants with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to begin contributing music in worship services and to build a foundation for further organ study.

Why this course is unique

No keyboard prerequisite

Whilst other courses require a fundamental piano technique, this course removes this barrier. The only prerequisite here is that you must be able to read music, and be a competent singer or instrumentalist.

An encouraging community

Just because the organ is played solo doesn't mean you need to learn it alone! Unlike a one-to-one relationship with a teacher, this course makes you part of a community that is at the same stage in their learning as you.

Supervised introduction to service-playing

When the time is right, participants will be given the opportunity to play parts of church services to apply what they've learned and to provide targets to aim for in their journey.

Course Outline

1. An introduction to the organ and what makes it tick
2. Approaching the organ console: positioning, posture and practice
3. Playing two-voice and three-voice hymn arrangements well
4. Simplifying hymns yourself whilst maintaining their harmonic integrity
5. Learning basic organ repertoire
6. Service playing: a staged introduction
7. Further learning and paths forward

Express your interest

Dates: Commencing Saturday, 12 Sept at 10am. Subsequent workshops will be at a similar time approximately 3-4 weeks apart.
Venue: Central Brisbane locations, with first session at Nazareth Lutheran Church, Woolloongabba.

Register your
interest here:



The Course Fee includes:

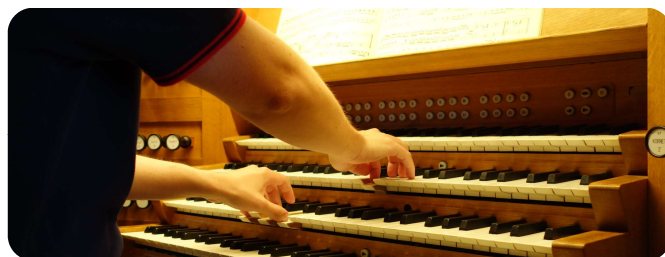
- A place in our 10 lesson course (20 contact hours), where numbers are capped at 12 participants
- A resource of 75 common hymns simplified for the beginner organist, arranged for this course
- A copy of RSCM Publication *The Complete Church Organist Level One* (over \$50 value)
- An *Organist Repertoire Starter Kit*, including a curated list of public domain music, and recommendations for resources to expand your collection.
- Opportunities to see other organists in action at services and recitals, as well as some opportunities to play when the time is right.
- (if applicable) RSCM Membership until December 2027, which includes quarterly church music magazines; *Sunday by Sunday* music planning tool based on the Revised Common Lectionary; RSCM event discounts and more.

Pricing

All 12 course places are heavily subsidised by RSCM Queensland, reducing the full course fee from \$1,200 to accessible rates for individuals and churches:

Fee Rate	Member	Public
RRP (before subsidy)	\$1,075	\$1,200
Individual (subsidised)	\$399	\$529
Church (subsidised)	\$419	\$599

For non-members individuals and churches, membership up until 31 December 2027 is included in the course fee (over \$125 value). Membership benefits are articulated on the left.



About the Course Convenor — Adam Hoey

With cello as my main instrument, I also sang choral music at school. I first heard the organ at a speech night, accompanying the choir and performing solo showpieces—its grandeur and range instantly inspired me. Singing in parish choirs later revealed how the organ enhances worship services and draws people closer to God.

My organ journey began when both organists at my family's church stepped away due to ill health. Around that time, I read an RSCM article by Dr Robert Boughen on simplifying hymns while preserving harmony. Using those principles and my musical background, I learned hymns for upcoming Sundays, gradually increasing complexity until I could play full hymnbook versions with pedals. I've since benefited from lessons with Brisbane organists and RSCM workshops featuring national and international teachers.

I am certainly no organ expert - and for some topics we will use guest presenters who can cover these topics better than I ever could. However, my experience starting organ in a church music context with no keyboard experience equips me to "unpack" the basics for others in a way that many organ teachers have not needed to do themselves.

I am delighted that I am able to "kick start" you on your journey to becoming an organist; to use my connections to create great playing experiences for you along the way; and give you the avenues you need to continue honing your craft after the course itself has concluded.

