

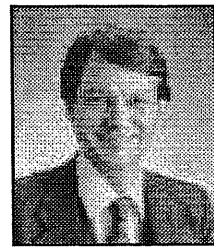
BACK ISSUES

Winter 99-00

Save that In a Preset

STIP

Music and Fun With Bil Curry



*If you find a great sound
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Relax With A Non-Song

One way to beat stress or just relax is to play a "Non-Song" with one of the smooth styles in the organ. Just follow these 10 steps (OK, so I'm two steps short of a 12 Step Program, but then everybody says that about me).

1. Turn on **Hawaiian Variation 1** (Paradise), my favorite, or **Soft and Easy Variation 1** (Guitars).
2. Turn the **Rhythm Volume** (drums) down a notch or two (keep the drum sounds soft but not off).
3. Use the yellow-colored **General Preset #4** (strings) as your sound (not the Rhythm Preset). General Preset #4 will give you a nice "bed" of sound which, along with these styles, will create a dreamy mood or "Calgon moment" like the old commercial used to say.
4. Press the **Intro/Ending** button and play a "C" chord on the Lower Keyboard.
5. After the Introduction, let the "C" play for awhile (2 to 4 measures) then play a Dm (press D & F together) for a while. Just go back and forth between these two chords until you feel comfortable.
6. Now start playing up and down the "white" or natural keys on the Upper Keyboard. If you happen to be on a "C" chord, stop on a "C", "E", or "G" note every once in a while. If you happen to be on a "Dm" chord you can stop on any "white key" (every once in a while).
7. Use the **FX** when ever you want to create a "lift" or break from your improvised melody.
8. Just get lost in the sound. Since there is no music, watch your hands on the keyboard and try to be as smooth as possible.
9. You can also throw in an "F" chord every once is a while if you want.
10. When you are ready, press the Intro/Ending button and let the Ending add an appropriate conclusion to your "musical meditation".

You can also do this "meditation" on just the "black keys" (sharps) if you use the chords "F#" and "G#m". The "F#" is easy, just play a one-finger "F#". The "G#m" takes two fingers, one on "G#" (same as Ab) and another on "B". Now just play "up and down" the black keys.

If you have any questions, bring this article into you local Lowrey Dealer and have one of the Personal Assistants demonstrate this for you.

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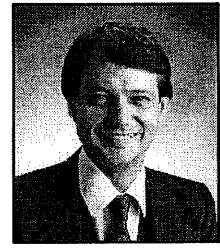
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Balance

Let's hypothetically take any Lowrey organ and play it for a variety of people in all kinds of different rooms. They will more than likely each have different ideas about how the levels of each section should be set. This is BALANCE. Lowrey organ presets are already balanced so that the Melody (Upper Keyboard) is easy to hear; however, some rooms absorb a lot of bass, some rooms are bright and echo a lot. Some people are more sensitive to bass while others cannot hear "highs" as well they used to. You can correct each of these circumstances by making adjustments to the volume levels of those particular sections on the organ. Since the medium and large Lowrey organs let you save these changes in presets, it only takes you one or two button presses to recall these organ set ups which you balanced your way, for your ears, in your home.

The best way to do this is to first find one of your favorite General, Rhythm, Category, or Bank presets. Now change the levels (volumes for Bass, Orch., Solo, Rhythm, etc.) to your liking and then Save That In a Preset (MEMORIZE). If you wish to keep the same accompaniment sound and just change the melody instruments, MEMORIZE that same sound to the next preset. Now press that new preset and change the Upper Keyboard sounds. MEMORIZE it back into that same preset number and also MEMORIZE it to the next preset button and change that one. Continue the process until you fill up the presets or you just plain want to stop. If you fill up the buttons or just for safety, save the presets to a disk. Now you can do another group and save those to the same disk. Many of our Lowrey artists will arrange a song or medley and use the presets to quickly recall the instrumentation and BALANCE of that piece by loading those saved presets from a disk.

Another use of BALANCE is to create new sounds for playing your melodies.

Let's create a "Zither" sound in the ORCHESTRAL section of a Lowrey LX series organ. This will leave the SOLO section free for use as either an alternate sound on the Lower

Keyboard or as a third sound you could later add to the Zither combination. First press and hold the Harpsichord button while you also press the Mandolin button. To me, the Mandolin is a little too loud. To BALANCE this, press the number "13" and the ENTER button. You will see "ORCHESTRAL BALANCE" on the screen. Press and hold the DOWN SCROLL button until you see:

ORCHESTRAL BALANCE
ORCH 1=65 ORCH 2=35

Now try the sound and you will hear that the Mandolin is a little bit softer. You may wish to continue balancing the sounds. Once you find a BALANCE that you like, press ENTER and then MEMORIZE your new sound into a preset. Make other "ZITHER" sounds by combining #51 DULCIMER with either MANDOLIN or #53 ETHEREAL (non-repeating). For harmony press the CUSTOM button in the HARMONY PLUS section and then DUET. When you use #13 (ORCHESTRAL BALANCE) the changes are to the value of ORCH2 (the flashing button in the ORCHESTRAL section). For a different Trumpet Wah-Wah I combine #157 Trumpet Do Wah (ORCH1) with #159 Mute Trumpet (ORCH2) and make the Mute Trumpet a lot softer (ORCH1= 75 ORCH2: 25). Try balancing other combinations and other sections as follows:

#11, RHYTHM BALANCE: Set to "0" for just low drum sounds or press the SCROLLdown one more time from "0" and get "100" for just high drum sounds.

#12, BASS BALANCE: Put a sound in the PEDAL GENIUS tab then compare and adjust that level to the other Pedal sounds (Bass 16, Bass 8, Ensemble Bass, etc.).

#16, GOLDEN HARP LEVEL: Play a song with GOLDEN HARP on and use this to make the GOLDEN HARP sound more or less apparent.

#17, SOUND EFFECTS LEVEL: Bring up or down the Applause, Birds, or Bell

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Home Organ Holiday Tips

Your Presets

Have you ever said to yourself, "I wish there was a little more (or less) Bass, Lower Strings, or Orchestration on this Preset."? If so, here is what you do:

1. Turn on the preset that you want to change.
2. Change it to your liking (levels, sounds).
3. Memorize it into a preset button.

The presets we give you in the Lowrey organs are great, but people have different tastes and different rooms make the organ sound different. Don't be afraid to adjust the levels and sound selections of a preset. You may even enjoy spending time setting up specific presets for a song or even sharing registrations that you have set up with others who have the same organ as you do.

Blues Chords

For those of you who like to play multi-fingered chords, the following are 3-note fingerings for the Lowrey LX and LC organs. These chords will make you sound "cool" and can be used whenever you see a "7th" chord (C7, G7, D7, etc.). They can also be used with all the major chords when you are playing a Blues or Ballad song like "Blueberry Hill" or "Night Train". The "Information Center" screen will tell you that these chords are either "9th" or "13th" chords, but don't let that scare you. These chords easily flow from one to the other.

Learn these first:

C = E, Bb, D
 F = Eb, A, D
 G = F, B, E

Learn these as you need them:

D = F#, C, E
 A = G, C#, F#
 E = G#, D, F#
 B = D#, A, C#
 Bb = D, Ab, C, or Ab, D, G
 Eb = G, Db, F
 Ab = Gb, C, F
 Db = F, B, Eb
 F# = E, Bb, Eb

Play "Blueberry Hill" in "C" all the way through using the above chords for all the Major chords. On the last note, hold the final chord "C" (E, Bb, D) for four counts, then play "F" (Eb, A, D) for four counts. Continue back and forth (four counts on each chord) as long as you want while your Right Hand improvises using the following notes: C, Eb, F, F#, G, & Bb. End on the C chord.

Music Recorder

When you use the "Music Recorder" on the Lowrey organ, you must have a disk in the disk drive because the Music Recorder records directly to the disk. This also means that the songs you record can be very long. The red colored "Magic of Lowrey" music disk takes up just a little more than half the space on a disk and yet it plays for over an hour. So play away. Try recording (into one song file) a multi-song "medley" (3 or more songs without turning the recorder off).

If you need a break (pause) when recording long medleys or songs, use the "Play/Pause" button which will pause (but not stop) the recording. You can also use the "Play/Pause" button to "que" up a song for immediate playback. Use the "<<" or ">>" to select the song from a disk but press the "Play/Pause" button twice. This will get the first registration of the song ready to go but the song will not start (the button will flash green). When you want to start, just press the "Play/Pause" button and the song will immediately begin. You can also "Pause" at any time during the playback of a song or when using "One Time Chain" or "Loop Chain".

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Sound Burglar

This time I'm going to show you how to "STEAL" sounds (registrations) from any of the songs recorded on the Lowrey LX song disks. Listen & Play Volumes 1, 2, & 3, , The Magic of Lowrey, The 12 Days of Christmas, The Nutcracker Suite, or any other song disk that uses BANK presets to change registrations.

Here's how:

1. Put a Lowrey LX disk with songs on it in the organ and press PLAY once. Use the << or >> buttons to select songs other than the first song on the disk.

2. When you've located the song you want, press PLAY. Just as the song starts playing, press PLAY again to PAUSE the song.

3. Now MEMORIZE the presets back into themselves. This means that if the song starts on preset A-1 (most songs will) then hold the MEMORIZE button with your left hand and press bank A with your right hand, let go, and press the General Preset number 1 and let go. Now let go of the MEMORIZE button.

Now press the General Preset number 2 and then hold MEMORIZE and press A, let go, then press General Preset number 2 and let go of everything again. Continue this until you've got all the presets used in the song.

Think of it this way :

Go to A -1, MEMORIZE ◀ A ▶ 1.

Go to A -2, MEMORIZE ◀ A ▶ 2.

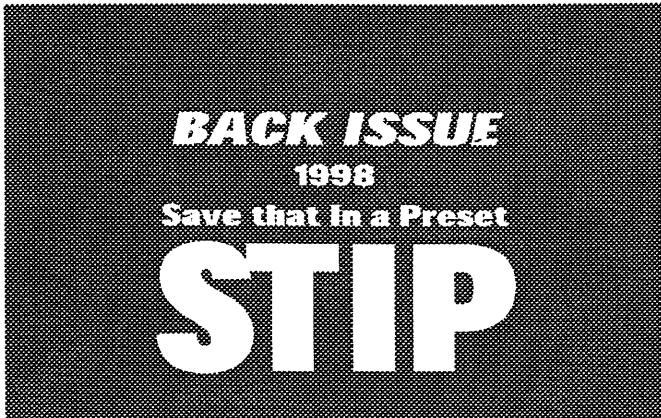
Go to A -3, MEMORIZE ◀ A ▶ 3.

Go to A - 4, MEMORIZE ◀ A ▶ 4 ... etc.

NOTE: If a "RHYTHM PLUS ORCHESTRATION" (style) was used in the song and you also want to memorize that style and tempo into your presets, hold down any pedal with your foot (or any key on the two keyboards) when memorizing the presets (ignore the sound). This tells the organ to include that specific style and tempo in the memorized preset. If you decide not to hold a key or pedal when memorizing then you will memorize just the sounds used and can later choose any style you want to go with those sounds.

4. When you are finished, press STOP on the Music Recorder and try out your new registrations. Change them to suit your own tastes and re-save them back into the presets. Press the Advanced Feature number " 72 " and ENTER to save the entire group of presets to a Lowrey LX formatted disk.

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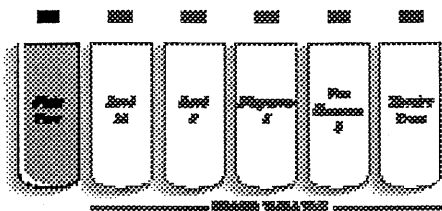
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Setting The Flute Percussion

FLUTE PERC (percussion) is a sound that is combined with the FLUTES to give a percussive attack (like a xylophone or piano) to the notes you play. The interesting part about this feature is that the percussive strike only happens AFTER all the keys on the upper keyboard have been released. This gives the player expressive control over the sound. Just connect your notes after that "first strike" and the FLUTE PERC is silent until you release all the keys and "strike" again.



FLUTE PERC is preset from the Lowrey factory but can be changed. To change the FLUTE PERC tab you must set three parameters: **pitch**, **level**, and **sustain**.

1. Choose the **pitch** you want to use by turning on one (or more) of the following FLUTE tabs: 5

1/3, 4, 2 2/3, 2. Traditionally, 4 or 2 2/3 are used the most. Combinations of these four pitches are rarely, if ever, used.

2. Set the **level** of that pitch by touching a number on the numeric keypad (usually between 2 and 4) and then touching the FLUTE tab you have chosen to use.

3. Set the **sustain** length (often called decay time) by using the green FLUTES SUSTAIN buttons in the GRAPHIC MIXER section. Four red lights on is usually a good setting.

4. Next, while holding the MEMORIZE button press the FLUTE PERC tab **TWICE** and then release the MEMORIZE button. The INFORMATION CENTER window will display the message "PRESET NOT MEMORIZED". Just ignore the message.

Your new FLUTE PERC setting will be in that tab for the flutes you wish to combine it with and play.



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Where's The Boogie?

"Where's the BOOGIE?" This question about the LX style section has been coming up a lot recently. My answer: "It's in there!" Here is how to get a great Boogie Woogie from any of the Lowrey LX organs.

BASIC BOOGIE...

1. Press "ROCK'N ROLL" and Rhythm Preset (#1).
2. Turn off the GENIE, ORCH, and ORCH PLUS buttons. (Note: Only the Celebrations have an ORCH button.)
3. Press AUTO BASS 2 and if you want, turn up the orange Bass Volume over on the left hand side of the organ in the Graphic Mixer.
4. Play a lot of "seventh" chords (C7, F7, G7).
5. For variety try Drum Variation or turn a GENIE, ORCH, or ORCH PLUS back on for a fancy accompaniment.

There is another Boogie pattern found in the CELEBRATION / CELEBRATION DELUXE organs:

BUMBLE BOOGIE

1. RESET the CELEBRATION and press the "BIG BAND" button and VARIATION 3.

2. Turn off the GENIE, ORCH, and ORCH PLUS buttons. Also turn off all FLUTE tabs on the organ. This can be quickly done by turning off the red "Lower Flutes" and "Upper Flutes" tabs in the centrally located MASTER CONTROL section.

3. Key the number 127 on the Information Center's keypad and then press AUTO BASS 2 button. This substitutes a great piano sound into the boogie bass line.

4. Slow the TEMPO down (170 seems good). You can do this quickly by keying the number 170 on the keypad and touching either of the purple RHYTHM TEMPO buttons.

5. To get a Honky Tonk Piano sound for the Upper Keyboard, key the number 126 on the keypad and press a red ORCHESTRAL GENIUS button. Try adding the STRING 8 tab with SUSTAIN to that piano sound for variety. Be sure to turn the ORCHESTRAL volume up all the way (red ORCH. VOLUME buttons).

NOTE: To include the RHYTHM PLUS ORCHESTRATION (style) section in a Bank Preset, be sure to hold down a pedal or key when you Memorize them.

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Easy Flutes

The first "Home Organs" used flute pipes or reeds to create the sound. Once mechanical and electronic means were employed to create sounds, the "flute" or "tibia" became the popular sound of the organ. On a Lowrey, the small organs have preset flute sounds (Mellow Organ, Theater Organ, Full Organ, etc.). On the mid-size and larger organs there are individual flutes which you can combine with each other to create organ sounds. These can also be used, along with sustain, to make bell sounds. For instance, turn on only the Flute 4 and Sustain. Turn the Vibra Trem to OFF or SLOW. Now play notes on the Upper Keyboard but do not hold the key down. Touch the keys as if they were hot and let the sustain decay the notes. You may also want to try adjusting the sustain lengths for different bell effects. Try it with just a Flute 16 and Vibra Trem on FAST. Experiment, but remember to touch the keys as if they were hot. Do not hold them down.

Enough of that "bunny trail". Home organs were always easier to play than pianos when it came to popular styles of music. All chords can be played in a one octave range on the Lower Keyboard of an organ. It was easier to anchor your left hand on the Lower Keyboard and play sustaining foot pedals than to try to bounce your left hand playing "bass-note, chord / bass-note, chord" on a piano. You could even miss on the pedal part and not upset the song.

It was setting up the proper sounds on the organ which was most confusing. Fortunately there is a quick-fix rule that still works today for making good flute combinations.

Turn on the Flute 16 and Vibra Trem and then add any of the other flutes sounds. As long as the Flute 16 is on (and at least as loud as the others) any combination of other flute sounds will sound good. Try this....turn on Flutes 16, 8, and 4. Play the verse of a song. When you get to the chorus, reach up and change the combination. For example...turn off the 8, or the 4. Or maybe add more flute sounds if you have them. You simply cannot get a bad sound. Using only the flutes allows you lots of variety in playing the songs that you love. Now lets take this rule one step further. This time turn on just the Flute 8. Flute 8 by itself, or with any combination of flute footages (except the 5 1/3) will sound good.

You may also add AOC or Duet for a nice harmony. If you own a larger LX series organ, be sure to turn on the CUSTOM button in the HARMONY PLUS section first. Now when you press any of the harmonies (Duet, Polka, 4 Part, etc.) your organ sounds will play in beautiful harmony based on the chord you are playing on the Lower Keyboard. Note that the AOC always works with the organ sounds....even when the CUSTOM button is turned off.

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Set 'em up & Save 'em

The more you play the LX organs, the more you find. We spend hours and hours making presets we think organ players will enjoy, and yet after all of that time, we still find great new sounds.

My favorite new sound is not in any category Preset, but is created by combining #73 (Blues Harmonica) with the Clarinet button (#43 Jazz Clarinet). This produces a great sounding Chromatic Harmonica (Ala. Stevie Wonder or Jean "Toots" Thielemans).

This next sound suggestion (Xylophone and Bird) is perfect for the song "Dance Little Bird". Press #168 (Xylophone) and then touch a SOLO GENIUS button. Be sure a blue UPPER ON or LOWER ON button is also activated.

Now here comes the fun part: Press #68 (Solo Repeat) and ENTER. Then press #7 and touch the PORTAMENTO button. (This speeds up the Portamento rate).

For Hawaiian songs, press #89 (Musical Saw) and a SOLO GENIUS button. Now press a high number like #99 and touch the PORTAMENTO button. Play a slow Hawaiian song and connect the notes. The sound will slowly slide all around creating a familiar island effect. Try combining the sound with the Vocal Ensemble Tab or 8' String, or Flute and Sustain.

These are fun sounds. Set 'em up, Save Them In a Preset. Next time we'll talk about substitution sounds in the RHYTHM PLUS ORCHESTRATION section.

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G.O.O.P.

The new Lowrey LX organs have a versatile Rhythm Plus Orchestration (Style) section. Each style (Big Band, Swing, Polka, Waltz, etc.) on the Celebration models can be varied greatly by using different combinations of Genie, Orch, Orch Plus, Auto Bass 1, and Auto Bass 2 with or without Drum Variation. The same is true for the Promenade and Holiday Deluxe though they combine Orch & Orch Plus into one Orch Plus button and the Holiday Deluxe does not feature Drum Variation. In all cases, the Genie button plays the basic instrumental rhythm part (guitar, piano, etc.). Genie alone with either of the two Bass or Drum parts is the best way to get a good simple arrangement. Many of the Intros and Endings sound very different when played with only the Genie rather than with all three Genie, Orch, and Orch Plus on. (Here at the factory, we call these buttons G.O.O.P.)

You can further vary the drum sounds by pressing the number "11" and touching the ENTER button (Drum Balance). Use the Scroll buttons to make either the High or Low drum sounds louder or softer. If you enter or scroll to a very low number (0, 1, 2) you will have only the low drum sounds (Bass Drum, Tom Toms, Snares, etc.). If you scroll very high (99, 100) you will have just the high drum sounds (Cymbals, Maracas, Triangle, etc.). Sounds Effects (Dog, Chicken, Sleigh Bells, Telephone, etc.) are not changed by these settings.

Now for even more fun, you can substitute any of the Lower Genius sounds into the Genie, Orch, Orch Plus, and Auto Bass buttons. You must enter the number of the sound directly into these buttons. Reference the numbers for Lowrey Genius Sounds in your owner's manual. Press the number of the sound you want and press the G.O.O.P. or Auto Bass button you want. The sounds coming from that button will change to the Lower Genius sound selected.

Try this example I call the "Breathing Polka". Press the POLKA button and Rhythm Preset (#1). Press 33 (Calliope) and touch GENIE. Again key 33 and touch ORCH PLUS. Once more, the number 33 and AUTO BASS 1. (This sound is loud so turn your Orch Plus volume down one notch.) Now press the INTRO/ENDING button and play the "C" key on your lower manual to start the Style. Try the same thing again, but instead of using the number 33, use the number 101 (Organ w/Tremolo).

As always, use your ear to determine which sounds are the best for substitution. If you want to save one of your new "sound discoveries" into a Bank Preset, be aware that you are now saving a style so you need to hold a key or pedal when you save. I usually just press down a pedal and keep it down until after I've held the Memorize button, then pressed a Bank Letter, Number, and then let go of the Memorize button.

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