

Richard Felciano

God of the Expanding Universe

For Organ and Electronic Sounds

Commissioned by Alec Wyton

Before starting the CD or other media containing the electronic sounds, all organ manuals should be coupled together at 8' pitch with no stops drawn. Silently depress the lowest D natural on the pedalboard with the D natural above middle C on the manuals. Keep these keys down to the end of the piece. Start the electronics playback. Shortly after sound is heard, add stops slowly at irregular intervals, arriving at the full organ sound by about 1:45. Allow the full organ to sound a bit, then retire the stops in more or less reverse order, finishing with the softest 8' flute. Hold that sound for 2 to 5 seconds after the tape sound stops.

Begin with the flues, building by pitch levels. Draw the 8' flutes one by one, move to the strings, then to the hybrids, and on the principals, in order of loudness, manuals and pedal. Then move to the 4' level, drawing the stops as before; follow with 16' and 2', mutations, and finally mixtures, always in the order of acuity of sound. After the flues are sounding, add the reeds, always from the softest to loudest of each pitch level, in the order 8', 16', 4', 32'. Lastly add the pedal couplers. The guiding principle is that each addition or subtraction be clearly heard. The player can best determine the order most effective on a particular instrument.

The maximum volume of electronic sound should balance approximately equally the sound of the full organ, though one or the other may predominate at any time.

Duration: 3 minutes.

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