

**AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
CHAPTERS IN EVERY STATE
Chartered 1896 by the Board of Regents, University of the State of New York
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260, New York, NY 10115; phone 212-870-2310**

**2012 National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance
Official Rules**

The American Guild of Organists promotes the highest level of organ performance through its National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance (“NYACOP” or “the Competition”). The Competition is intended to serve as a springboard for emerging organists to develop their performance ability by participating in the various demanding stages of this Competition. The winner receives a monetary prize, the exposure of a recital played during an AGO National Convention, the recording of a CD to be marketed by a recognized recording label, and two years of concert career development assistance. All competitors are expected to demonstrate fine artistic ability, grace under pressure, and a commitment to the professional approach of the Competition. Each competitor is also expected to observe all rules and procedures of the Competition.

The NYACOP Committee administers the application process and selects the initial competitors for the Competition based on its review of the application materials. The Committee also supervises the progress of the Competition in accordance with the Official Rules. The Committee may establish such other procedures from time to time and take such other actions as deemed appropriate to ensure that the Competition proceeds in an efficient and professional manner consistent with these Official Rules and the Competition’s goals. The NYACOP Committee has the sole authority to interpret and enforce the rules and procedures of the Competition. Any supplemental rules, clarifications, or corrections issued in any form by the NYACOP Committee are to be considered an official part of these Rules.

Competition Summary

The Competition takes place in four stages:

The APPLICATION process calls for applicants to present themselves for consideration as competitors with completed application packages as specified in these Rules. A maximum of 25 applicants will be accepted as official competitors.

The Competition continues with three PERFORMANCE ROUNDS. The first is a Recorded Round, judged in strict anonymity, from which seven competitors are chosen to advance to the Semifinal Round. Those semifinalists will compete in live performance prior to the AGO National Convention. Of those, three will be selected to compete in the Final Round at the 2012 AGO National Convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

OFFICIAL RULES

I—ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES

1. Eligibility:

The Competition is open to organists who were born between July 1, 1979, and July 1, 1989. Previous NYACOP first-place winners are ineligible. Organists who are, prior to commencement of the Competition, or who become at any time during the Competition, under exclusive contract with a management or recording agency are ineligible to compete. Competitors who do not follow all of the rules and procedures of the Competition are subject to disqualification. Competitors who engage in conduct that is contrary, in the opinion of the NYACOP Committee, to the professional spirit of the Competition are also subject to disqualification.

This is an American competition. The winner will perform regularly for American audiences. Due to the prohibitive costs of overseas travel and the difficulty in arranging recital appearances for non-US residents, the winner is encouraged to reside in North America during the two-year period following the Competition. Work visas for non-US residents are expensive and increasingly difficult to obtain in this country. Payment of any fees for work visas would be the responsibility of the winner.

Applicants should be members in good standing of the AGO at the time of application. All competitors are expected to be fluent in written and spoken English.

2. Application Procedure:

A complete application will consist of all of the following:

- (a) Four photocopies of a completed application form, completed as directed on the form. Application forms may be obtained as hard copies from AGO Headquarters or downloaded in PDF format at <http://www.agohq.org/competitions/index.html>.
- (b) A check or money order in the amount of \$75 made out to “American Guild of Organists.”
- (c) Four photocopies of the applicant’s legal birth certificate or equivalent government-issued documentation proving date of birth.
- (d) Information about the applicant’s musical education and competition and prize history, a recording verification form, and three to six examples of recital programs demonstrating depth of experience and breadth of repertoire.
- (e) Four copies of an audio CD of a solo, live, public performance presented after January 1, 2010. The recording shall contain only a major work by J. S. Bach (all movements of a multi-movement work) and a contrasting work composed after 1770. *Only the first 30 minutes of the recording will be reviewed.*

The application form contains additional instructions.

Application materials will not be returned.

3. The package containing application materials should be shipped to: NYACOP, American Guild of Organists, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260, New York, NY 10115. The package must be postmarked *no later than April 15, 2011*. The entire application must be shipped in a single package. The AGO will send confirmation of receipt approximately one week after the postmark deadline. Applicants are advised to obtain a tracking number from their shipping company and check delivery status.

4. The application process will be administered by the NYACOP Committee. The NYACOP Committee places the greatest emphasis on the evaluation of the applicants' submitted recordings. The Committee, none of whom may be a current teacher of an applicant, will evaluate the recordings in strict anonymity. All other application materials will be used to gain a further, general understanding of each prospective competitor's experience and preparedness to enter into the intense recital activity available to the NYACOP first-prize winner.
5. Applicants should be aware that every detail of each application is carefully scrutinized. Any deviation from these Rules may result in disqualification. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application package is complete, accurate, and postmarked by the deadline of April 15, 2011.

II—PERFORMANCE ROUNDS

(A) RECORDED ROUND

1. All applicants will receive notification of their status by June 17, 2011.
2. A maximum of 25 applicants will be chosen to become official competitors. They will then be asked to provide 100-word biographies and publicity photos for publication in THE AMERICAN ORGANIST.
3. Official competitors will submit four identical, unedited audio CDs of the following repertoire to National Headquarters, postmarked no later than October 14, 2011:

RECORDED ROUND REPERTOIRE

J. S. Bach: Toccata in F, BWV 540i (any Urtext edition)
 Ned Rorem: from *A Quaker Reader*, mvt. II: "Mary Dyer did hang as a flag" (Boosey & Hawkes)
 Ethel Smyth: Choralvorspiel und Fuge über "O Traurigkeit, O Herzeleid" (Vivace Press)
 Marcel Dupré: Prelude and Fugue in B, Op. 7, No. 1 (any edition)

4. Additional guidelines will be sent to each competitor regarding procedures for submitting recordings.
5. The recording shall contain performances of only the above works, in the order listed.
6. Works may be recorded on different organs suitable for the individual pieces, but there may be no editing within a work.
7. The Recorded Round will be judged under conditions of strict anonymity. Judges' identities will be revealed at the conclusion of the Round. No judge may be a current or immediate past teacher of a competitor.
8. Each competitor will receive signed, written comments on her or his performance. Judges' comments are not to be quoted in future press releases.
9. CDs will not be returned to competitors.

(B) LIVE PERFORMANCE ROUNDS

1. All competitors will be notified of their status by December 16, 2011.
2. Seven competitors will be chosen from the Recorded Round to participate in the Semifinal Round. At the Semifinal Round, three semifinalists will be selected to advance to the Final Round.
3. Once notified of their status, those selected to compete in the live performance rounds are prohibited from playing the Competition organs in advance of their official practice times.
4. The Semifinal Round will be held approximately one month before the Final Round, at a venue to be selected by June 2011. The Final Round will take place in conjunction with the 2012 National Convention of the American Guild of Organists in Nashville, Tenn.
5. Performers will be screened from view of the judges during the Semifinal and Final Rounds. Judges' identities will be revealed at the conclusion of each Round. No judge may be a current or immediate past teacher of a competitor.
6. The order in which the competitors perform will be chosen by lot in each Round.
7. The use of illegally reproduced copyrighted scores is prohibited and will disqualify any competitor from further participation in the Competition. Exceptions to this rule apply only to reductions and to pages duplicated for the purpose of facilitating page turns.
8. Each semifinalist will receive a minimum of four hours' practice time on the Competition instrument. Additional practice time at other venues will also be available as conditions permit. Practice time for the Final Round will be negotiable, so long as each competitor is offered the same amount of time, with a minimum of four hours per finalist. No one other than the competitor, committee members, and designated onsite monitors or page-turners may be present during practice times.
9. The NYACOP Committee will designate page-turners, who will be available on the last day of practice. During practice sessions, these page-turners will also be allowed to play any desired passages for competitors to listen for balance and registration adjustments. Page-turners may not offer coaching or advice on registration during practice sessions, and they will not be allowed to operate stops or pistons during the performance.
10. Competitors may record their practice sessions.
11. Each competitor may choose the order in which his or her pieces are played during the Semifinal and Final Rounds.
12. The judges of the Final Round shall name at least a First Prize winner.
13. Decisions of all judges will be final and are not subject to appeal.
14. Judges' comments are not to be quoted in future press releases.

SEMIFINAL ROUND REPERTOIRE

- J. S. Bach: from *Clavierübung III*: Trio on "Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr," BWV 676 (any Urtext edition)
- J. S. Bach: from *Clavierübung III*: "Wir glauben all' an einen Gott," BWV 680 (any Urtext edition)

Georg Böhm: Praeludium in C (any Urtext edition)
César Franck: Choral No. 2 in b minor (any Urtext edition)
Anton Heiller: Tanz-Toccata (Doblinger)

FINAL ROUND REPERTOIRE

J. S. Bach: Fugue in F, BWV 540ii (any Urtext edition)
Nicolas de Grigny: *Verbum supernum* (complete) (any Urtext edition)
Judith Weir: Ettrick Banks (Novello)
Franz Liszt: Prelude and Fugue on B-A-C-H, Second version (1870) (any edition)

III—FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

1. The AGO will provide honoraria and expense reimbursement for all judges.
2. The AGO will provide round-trip coach air transportation for competitors in the Semifinal Round as well as a fixed per diem allowance from the first scheduled practice day through the conclusion of the Semifinal Round.
3. The AGO will provide round-trip coach air transportation for the finalists to the National Convention in Nashville, Tenn., as well as a fixed per diem allowance from the first scheduled practice day through the day on which the prizes are presented. Finalists are required to attend this presentation.
4. Registration for the National Convention will be complimentary for finalists and for the judges of the Final Round.
5. Underwriting of expenses is provided in part by the Nita Akin Competition Fund.

IV—PRIZES

FIRST PRIZE

1. The Lilian Murtagh Memorial Prize, funded by Karen McFarlane Artists, Inc., Cleveland, OH
\$3,000 cash award
Career development assistance from Karen McFarlane Artists Inc., between September 2012 and June 2014, including publicity materials and advertising
2. A performance during the 2014 National Convention.
3. A CD recording on the Pro Organo label

Total value of management and recording services estimated at \$20,000.
Based on past winners' experience, recital fees between 2010 and 2012 are estimated to be \$20,000 or more before expenses.

SECOND PRIZE

\$3,000

Funded by John-Paul Buzard Pipe Organ Builders, Champaign, Ill.

THIRD PRIZE

\$2,000

Funded by Kegg Pipe Organ Builders, Hartville, OH

AUDIENCE PRIZE

\$1000

Funded by Martin Ott Pipe Organ Company Inc., St. Louis, MO

This prize will be determined by audience ballot at the Final Round. Only audience members who are present for the entire Final Round of the Competition may vote.

COMMITTEE FOR THE NATIONAL YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION IN ORGAN
PERFORMANCE

John Brock, Director, Knoxville, Tenn.

Ann Frohbieter, Houston, Tex.

Jay Peterson, Chicago, Ill.

David Vogels, AGO National Councillor for Competitions and New Music, Denver, Col.