

## Official Rules Governing the 2011 AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists

**The purpose of these competitions is to encourage younger organists to pursue excellence, to gain performance experience, and to receive recognition for their achievements. These competitions begin at the Chapter level and conclude at the nine Regional Conventions. The winner of each Regional Competition will be invited to perform as a Rising Star at the 2012 National Convention in Nashville, Tenn. The AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions are made possible by a generous grant from Michael Quimby, President, Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc.**

|  | Chapter  | Regional  |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Eligibility</b>                                 | A competitor must be under 24 years of age as of August 1, 2011.<br>Membership in the AGO is not required.   | Same  |
| <b>Competition Dates</b>                           | The competition is to be held between February 25 and April 3, 2011.   | The competition is to be held concurrent with the Regional Conventions in June/July 2011.   |
| <b>Chapter Application</b>                         | Chapter Deans must apply to hold a Chapter Competition. Applications must be postmarked no later than October 22, 2010, for listing in the January 2011 issue of THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine. No applications postmarked after December 1, 2010 will be accepted.   | NA  |
| <b>Competitor Application</b>                      | Applications must be postmarked no later than January 21, 2011.<br>A competitor must enter only in the AGO region of either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the school at which the competitor is currently enrolled OR</li> <li>• the competitor's permanent legal residence.</li> <li>• the chapter of which the competitor has been a member for at least a year</li> </ul>   |   |
| <b>Repertoire</b>                                  | Competitors will perform one work from each of the following categories: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A prelude (a toccata or fantasia is acceptable) <b>and</b> fugue by Bach, including the 8 "Little" Preludes and Fugues (BWV 553-560). BWV 582 is acceptable; BWV 572 is not acceptable.</li> <li>2. A work by a composer born between 1800 and 1900 (a single movement of a larger work is acceptable).</li> <li>3. A work composed by a composer born after 1900 (a single movement of a larger work is acceptable).</li> </ol> <p>The works in categories 2 and 3 must be contrasting in mood.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Hymns – choose one: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobe den Herren</li> <li>Nicaea</li> <li>Mit Freuden Zart</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>The competitor will introduce the hymn and play two stanzas as if accompanying a congregation. The first stanza of the hymn must be played from the version downloaded from <a href="http://www.agoHQ.org">www.agoHQ.org</a>. Published or improvised arrangements may be used for the introduction and/or other stanza if the competitor wishes.</p> | Same  |
| <b>Total Performance Time (three works + hymn)</b> | The total performance time is not to exceed 40 minutes, <b>including</b> piston setting.   | Same  |
| <b>Awards</b>                                      | The first-place winner is expected to compete in the Regional Competition. Chapter first-place winners receive free membership in the AGO for one year. Each Chapter is expected to make cash awards and to assist with expenses for traveling to the Regional Convention. Chapters are encouraged to present the winner in recital.   | \$1,000 cash prize to first-place winner; \$500 cash prize to second-place winner. The first-place winner is to be presented in a 45-minute recital at the Regional Convention. All first-place winners will be invited to perform at the 2012 National Convention in |

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|  |  | Nashville, TN. |
| <b>Official registration form and official rules</b>   | Available in THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine. Also available from AGO Headquarters, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260, New York, NY 10115; phone: 212-870-2310; fax: 212-870-2163; e-mail: info@agohq.org; www.agohq.org (rules and forms may be downloaded). | NA             |
| <b>Registration Fee</b>  | \$50   | NA             |
| <b>RCYO Committee</b><br><a href="http://www.agohq.org/organize/rcyo.html">http://www.agohq.org/organize/rcyo.html</a> | Jeff McLelland, Director (jmclelland@ipc-usa.org)<br>Ann Marie Rigler (riglera@william.jewell.edu)<br>Chelsea Chen (chelseachen@gmail.com)<br>David Vogels, Councillor for Competitions & New Music (dvogels@aol.com)                                      |                |

## REGISTRATION

### 1. Where you may compete:

A competitor must enter only in the AGO region of either:

- the school at which the competitor is currently enrolled OR
- the competitor's permanent legal residence.

No competitor may enter more than one Chapter Competition during this competition period (spring 2011). (For information on chapters that plan to hold competitions, see the January 2011 issue of THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine, or contact the Regional Councillor of the Region in which you plan to compete.) Names of chapters holding competitions will be posted on the AGO website ([www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org)) as soon as their applications are received.

### 2. Who may compete:

A competitor must be under 24 years of age as of August 1, 2011. Membership in the AGO is not required.

Past first-place Regional Competition winners are ineligible to compete.

### 3. How to enter:

Each competitor must send the following items to AGO Headquarters:

- official application form (published with these rules and available at [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org) or from AGO Headquarters)
- proof of age (photocopy of driver's license, birth certificate, or passport)
- \$50 registration fee payable to the Chapter of entry
- biography and head-shot photograph in digital form

Applications must be postmarked no later than January 21, 2011.

Competitors should retain copies of the application materials.

All application materials become the property of the American Guild of Organists and will not be returned.

## GENERAL RULES

### 1. Recordings:

All phases of this competition are live. No recording is allowed during the competition.

### 2. Applause:

Applause is not permitted during the competition.

### 3. Page turners:

The Competition Coordinator will assign each competitor a page turner/assistant. The page

turner/assistant must be a neutral party; the competitor is not allowed to choose a page turner/assistant. The page tuner/assistant may demonstrate registrations for the competitor during the practice period, but is prohibited from advising the competitor in any way. Only the page turner/assistant and the official Competition monitor may be present with the competitor during practice sessions. The page turner/assistant may not assist or advise the competitor in any way during the performance except for turning pages.

**4. Photocopies:**

The use of photocopied or other illegally reproduced copyrighted scores without the written permission of the copyright holder is prohibited and will disqualify a competitor from participation in the competition. (Exceptions to this rule apply only to reductions for performance and to pages duplicated for the purpose of facilitating page turns.)

**5. Disqualification:**

A competitor will be disqualified for failure to abide by the rules. Disqualification will be determined by mutual agreement among the Regional Councillor, the Director of the RCYO Committee, and: (1) at the Chapter level, the Dean of the Chapter and Chapter Competition Coordinator; (2) at the Regional level, the Regional Competition Coordinator. Any questions regarding interpretation of the rules should be addressed to the Competition Coordinator.

**6. Withholding prizes:**

The judges shall reserve the right to withhold any or all prizes. The decision of the judges is final.

**7. Ties:**

In the event of a tie for first place, places will be determined by the sum of the scores on the 100-point scale. If this still results in a tie, the judges will determine the first- and second-place winners by consensus.

## **RULES FOR CHAPTER-LEVEL COMPETITIONS**

**1. How a Chapter applies to hold a competition:**

- Each Chapter desiring to sponsor a Chapter Competition must complete and submit an application form to AGO National Headquarters and to the Regional Councillor by October 22, 2010.
- Chapters within the same region may combine to hold a competition.
- Chapters meeting this deadline will be included in the listing of Chapter Competitions to be published in the January 2011 issue of THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine.
- No Chapter applications postmarked after December 1, 2010 will be accepted.

**2. Appointing a Chapter Competition Coordinator:**

The Chapter Dean, in consultation with the Chapter's Executive Committee, shall appoint a Coordinator (and a committee, if desired) for that Chapter's competition. Competition Coordinators must be thoroughly familiar with all applicable sections of these rules as well as the checklists provided by Headquarters and must have regular access to e-mail.

**3. When to hold the Chapter Competition:**

The competition must be held between February 25 and April 3, 2011.

**4. Choosing an organ for the competition:**

a. It is imperative that the organ chosen for the competition be adequate to play a wide range of literature and that it be in excellent working condition. This instrument should be the best available, one that projects well into the room and encourages the most sensitive playing. It must have a reliable combination action, preferably with multiple levels of memory. The instrument must not be one that any of the competitors uses regularly.

b. At least one month before the competition, the Chapter Competition Coordinator will provide

competitors with detailed information concerning the competition instrument, including specifications, manual layout, pedalboard, compass, number and location of pistons for each division, and other console accessories.

- c. The Chapter Competition Coordinator will personally inspect the instrument to be used for the competition, making certain that it complies with all requirements. This must be done early, before the location of the competition is confirmed. As the competition approaches, the Coordinator will again personally check to ensure that the organ is in tune and ready. The Coordinator must provide the judges with notice of any uncorrected problems prior to the competition.

**5. Appointing judges:**

- a. Three judges and two alternates will be appointed in consultation among the Dean of the Chapter, the program coordinator (or Sub-Dean), and the Competition Coordinator. These potential judges should be highly knowledgeable with regard to organ literature and performance practice. It may be desirable to appoint judges from other chapters. The names of the five appointees must be reported to the Regional Councillor at least 25 days prior to the date of the Chapter Competition.
- b. No past or present teacher of a competitor, or any other teacher associated with a school attended by a competitor, may serve as a judge of that competitor. It is therefore imperative that no judges be appointed until the competitors, their teachers, and their schools are known.
- c. The names of the judges will not be made public until the conclusion of the competition.

**6. Scheduling practice time:**

A minimum of three hours of practice on the competition instrument must be arranged by the Chapter Competition Coordinator for each competitor. Competitors may be given additional practice time, to be divided equally among all competitors. In addition, each competitor must be allowed at least 30 minutes on the competition instrument on the day of the competition. In every situation, the Coordinator must be fair and equitable to all competitors. Competitors may not listen to each other practice.

**7. Changes in the competitor's repertoire:**

Any change in repertoire must be made in writing to the Chapter Competition Coordinator no less than 30 days in advance of the Chapter Competition. The Chapter Competition winner must perform the same repertoire at the Regional Competition.

**8. Competition performance:**

- a. The total time of the three works and the hymn must not exceed 40 minutes, including piston setting.
- b. The three works and the hymn may be played in any order preferred by the competitor.

**9. Screening the competitors from view:**

Competitors must be screened from the view of the judges, but may be visible to the audience.

**10. Single competitor:**

If only one competitor has registered for a Chapter Competition, the competitor must still perform for a panel of three judges to be approved as a competitor in the Regional Competition.

**11. Minors:**

A competitor who is under the age of 18 at the time of the competition must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. The Chapter is not responsible for any expenses for the accompanying adult.

**12. Responsibilities of the Chapter Competition Coordinator:**

- Inform the judges of the works (including editions of Bach works) and hymns to be performed at least 20 calendar days prior to the competition.
- Monitor the competitors' practice time or appoint someone to do so.

- Ensure that judges arrive at the site of the competition with sufficient time to examine the console, play the organ briefly, and acquaint themselves with the sound of the instrument.
- Have at least one alternate judge on site at the competition or readily available to serve if required.
- Notify judges of any problems with the competition instrument that cannot be rectified before the competition begins.
- Remind judges to provide signed, written comments to competitors concerning their performances. Verbal discussion with the competitors following the competition is encouraged.
- Ensure that judges are not seated near one another during the performances, but are seated where they can best hear the instrument being played.
- Ensure that judges are not able to see the competitors.
- Provide judges with the official form to score and rate competitors (downloadable from [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org)).
- Remind judges that they have the right to withhold any or all prizes. In the event of a tie for first place, places will be determined by the sum of the scores on the 100-point scale. If this still results in a tie, the judges will determine the first- and second-place winners by consensus.
- Consult the Chapter Coordinator Checklist for more detailed instructions.

### **13. Competing at the Regional level:**

The first-place winner of each Chapter Competition is expected to compete in the Regional Competition. If the first-place winner is unable to compete in the Regional Competition, the second-place winner is eligible to compete.

### **14. Chapter financial responsibilities:**

- a. The Chapter will retain the application fees collected from the competitors for the purpose of defraying expenses related to the Chapter Competition.
- b. The Chapter is expected to make cash awards to the first- and second-place winners of the competition and to assist the winner in covering the expenses of traveling to the Regional Convention. The Chapter is also encouraged to present the winner in recital.
- c. The first-place winner receives free membership in the AGO for one year. Contact the Regional Councillor or Headquarters for information.
- d. The Chapter is responsible for any charges imposed for the use of facilities.
- e. The Chapter must pay each judge a minimum \$50 honorarium and provide overnight lodging/meals as necessary.

### **15. Reporting results:**

Immediately upon conclusion of the Chapter Competition, the Coordinator must forward copies of the application forms, photographs, and biographies of the first- and second-place winners to the Regional Councillor. These materials should be in the hands of the Regional Councillor no later than April 30, 2011.

## **RULES FOR REGIONAL-LEVEL COMPETITIONS**

### **1. Appointing the 2011 Regional Competition Coordinator:**

The Regional Convention Coordinator will appoint a member of the Regional Convention Steering Committee to be the Competition Coordinator. This appointee must be reported to the Regional Councillor no later than February 1, 2011. Competition Coordinators must have regular access to e-mail.

### **2. When and where to hold the Regional Competition:**

Regional Competitions will be held in conjunction with the Regional Conventions of the American Guild of Organists during June and July 2011.

If a Region does not hold its convention in the summer, provisions must be made for a Regional Competition in June or July. The convention is still responsible for all financial responsibilities detailed in these rules and the Regional Convention Guidelines.

The Regional Councillor, Regional Convention Coordinator, and Regional Competition Coordinator will confer on all details of scheduling and location of the competition, within the following guidelines:

- All competitors must perform on the same day.
- Regional Competitions cannot be combined.

**3. Choosing an organ for the competition:**

The organ chosen for the Regional Competition must be the finest available, appropriate for performance of the required literature, and in excellent working condition. It must have a reliable combination action, preferably with multiple levels of memory. The Regional Councillor should make certain that the instrument to be used for the competition meets these criteria. This must be done early, before the location of the competition is confirmed. As the competition approaches, the Regional Competition Coordinator will again check to ensure that the organ is in tune and ready. The Coordinator must provide the judges with written notice of any uncorrected problems prior to the competition.

**4. Appointing judges:**

- a. Three judges and two alternates will be appointed no later than May 31, 2011, in consultation among the Regional Councillor, the Regional Convention Coordinator, and the Regional Competition Coordinator. These judges should be highly knowledgeable with regard to organ literature and performance practice.
- b. Neither the Regional Councillor, the Regional Competition Coordinator, nor the Regional Convention Coordinator may serve as a judge in his or her own Region.
- c. Judges of Chapter Competitions may not serve as judges of a Regional Competition in the same Region.
- d. No past or present teacher of a competitor, or any other teacher associated with a school attended by a competitor, may serve as a judge of that competitor. It is therefore imperative that no judges be appointed until the competitors, their teachers, and their schools are known.
- e. The names of the judges will not be made public until the conclusion of the competition.

**5. Sending information to competitors:**

By May 16, 2011, the Regional Competition Coordinator must notify all Chapter Competition winners of the date and place of the Regional Competition. At that time, the Competition Coordinator should also provide competitors with detailed information concerning the competition instrument, including specifications, manual layout, pedalboard, compass, number and location of pistons for each division, and other console accessories.

**6. Scheduling practice time:**

A minimum of three hours of practice on the competition instrument is to be arranged by the Regional Competition Coordinator for each competitor. The competitors may be given additional practice time, to be divided equally among all competitors. Each competitor must be given 30 minutes on the competition instrument on the day of the competition. In every situation, the Coordinator must be fair and equitable to all competitors. Competitors may not listen to each other practice.

**7. Competition performance:**

- a. Each competitor must perform the same compositions and hymn for the Regional Competition as performed in the Chapter Competition.

- b. The total time of the three works and the hymn must not exceed 40 minutes, including piston setting.
- c. The three works and the hymn may be played in any order preferred by the competitor.

**8. Screening the competitors from view:**

Competitors must be screened from the view of the judges, but may be visible to the audience.

**9. Single competitor:**

In the event there is only one competitor, the competitor must still perform for the judges. The judges will determine if a prize is to be awarded.

**10. Minors:**

A competitor who is under the age of 18 at the time of the competition must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. The convention is not responsible for any expenses for the accompanying adult.

**11. Responsibilities of the Regional Competition Coordinator:**

- Submit the names and photos of the competitors for inclusion in the convention program book.
- Inform the judges of the works (including editions of Bach works) and hymns to be performed at least 20 days prior to the competition.
- Monitor the competitors' practice time or appoint someone to do so.
- Ensure that judges arrive at the site of the competition with sufficient time to examine the console, play the organ briefly, and acquaint themselves with the sound of the instrument.
- Have at least one alternate judge on site at the competition or readily available to serve if required.
- Notify judges of any problems with the competition instrument that cannot be rectified before the competition begins.
- Remind judges to provide signed, written comments to competitors concerning their performances. Verbal discussion with the competitors following the competition is encouraged.
- Ensure that judges are not seated near one another during the performances, but are seated where they can best hear the instrument being played.
- Ensure that judges are not able to see the competitors.
- Provide judges with the official form to score and rate competitors (downloadable from [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org)).
- Remind judges that they have the right to withhold any or all prizes. In the event of a tie for first place, places will be determined by the sum of the scores on the 100-point scale. If this still results in a tie, the judges will determine the first- and second-place winners by consensus.
- Consult the Regional Competition Coordinator Checklist and the AGO Guidelines for Regional Conventions for more detailed instructions.

**12. Regional winners:**

- a. Each Region will award a \$1,000 cash prize to the first-place winner and a \$500 cash prize to the second-place winner of the Regional Competition. These awards are made possible by a generous grant from Michael Quimby, President, Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc.
- b. The first-place winner must perform a 45-minute recital during the Regional Convention. It is recommended that this program include the winner's competition pieces.
- c. The winner of each Regional Competition will be invited to perform at the 2012 National Convention in Nashville, TN.
- d. Winners will be featured in THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine.

**13. Regional Convention financial responsibilities:**

- a. Regional Conventions will provide competitors with housing (use of the convention hotel is

strongly recommended), meals, parking and local transportation during the rehearsal and competition period. The first-place winner will also receive housing and meals (a per diem of at least \$35 for meals is recommended) during the convention as determined by the Convention Steering Committee. Complimentary convention registrations will be provided to at least the first- and second-place winners, but conventions are urged to provide complimentary registration to all competitors.

- b. Expenses incurred in conducting the Regional Competition are the responsibility of the Chapter hosting the Regional Convention as part of the convention budget. In drafting a budget, it is recommended that the convention plan on six competitors.
- c. Each judge shall receive a \$100 honorarium and complimentary convention registration (excluding banquets, transportation, etc.), to be paid by the Regional Convention. If the competition is held prior to the convention, the Regional Convention will also cover lodging and meal expenses incurred by out-of-town judges from the time they are required to arrive for the competition until the convention begins, unless those expenses are already provided by the convention for other reasons.

**14. Reporting results:**

Upon conclusion of the Regional Competition, the Regional Competition Coordinator will provide photographs and biographies of first- and second-place winners, as well as updated contact information, to Headquarters, no later than August 1, 2011.

**15. Responsibilities of the Regional Councillor:**

- Ensure that information on Chapter Competition winners (names, contact information, photographs, and biographies) is delivered to the Regional Competition Coordinator as soon as available, but no later than May 9, 2011.
- Make certain that the instrument to be used for the Regional Competition meets the criteria set forth in these rules.
- Encourage chapters to sponsor the winner of the Regional Competition in recitals throughout the Region following the competition. Competition winners are under no obligation to perform for less than their customary professional fees for such appearances.