

CHAPTER-SPONSORED ORGAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Alan D. Berlin

Chapter-sponsored organ scholarships play an important role in the recruitment and education of organists. The following article written by Alan D. Berlin, dean of the Harrisburg Chapter, highlights his chapter's highly successful endeavors in this area, which included six 2005 POE scholarships! Consult <www.harrisburgago.com> for additional information. May Harrisburg's efforts continue to flourish and also provide inspiration to those aspiring to establish a program!

NAOMI ROWLEY, Director
Committee on the New Organist

The Harrisburg Chapter was honored to provide six of our student members the opportunity to attend the POEs in Baltimore and at Tidewater with full-tuition scholarships. From what we have heard back from our students, they all enjoyed their experiences and came away with a better understanding of the organ. If there was only one criticism, it was that they wanted more! What a tremendous testimonial to the events!

These scholarships had their start in

2003 with the establishment of the Yocum Scholarship Fund. When Charles Yocum retired from his congregation after a long and distinguished career as a church musician, his church honored him with the establishment of this fund. The Harrisburg executive board designated this fund to provide scholarships to the Guild's POE events. Since then, we have designated portions of free-will offerings taken at chapter events towards the fund as well as donations that are received from additional funds so designated on our membership renewal form. In 2004, we sent two students to POEs, and then we were able to send six this year.

In addition to the Yocum Scholarship Fund, we have also established the Shenk Scholarship Fund. Harrisburg Chapter member Melvin Shenk established this scholarship in 2002 in memory of his mother, Violette Shenk.

Recognizing the need to train new organists, the Harrisburg Chapter designated these funds towards encouraging

qualified middle and high school students to study the organ and to develop the skills and commitment necessary to serve as church musicians. The chapter offers qualified applicants a limited number of scholarships for free instruction in organ playing, the equivalent of ten weeks of half-hour lessons. Guild members discount their usual fees to provide the Shenk Scholars with lessons. Each year the chapter features these students in a member and student recital. This year we were able to provide twelve students with scholarships. A free student membership is also provided to the students.

A brochure is available to publicize the scholarships. The guidelines and application form are included at the conclusion of this article.

Guidelines for Organ Scholarships Harrisburg Chapter of The American Guild of Organists

- I. Purpose of Organ Lesson Scholarships
 - a. To encourage qualified young people in grades 6–12 to study organ and to develop the skills and commitment to serve as church organists.
 - b. To accomplish the above by offering qualified applicants a limited number of scholarships for free instruction in organ playing, the equivalent of 15 weeks of half-hour lessons.
- II. Purpose of Pipe Organ Encounter Scholarships
 - a. To encourage qualified young people ages 13 to 18 to attend a Pipe Organ Encounter sponsored by the American Guild of Organists held in varying locations each summer.
 - b. To accomplish the above by offering qualified applicants a limited number of scholarships for tuition to a weeklong Pipe Organ Encounter. Dates are announced in January of each year.
- III. Qualifications
 - a. Piano Repertory
 - i. Student should be playing at least at the level of Clementi Sonatinas.
 - ii. Student should play with accuracy, rhythmic security, expressiveness, and appropriate interpretation.
 - b. Piano Technique
 - i. Student must be able to play two-octave scales and two-octave arpeggios.
 - ii. Emphasis should be on accuracy, steady rhythm, and correct fingering—not on speed.

Harrisburg Chapter of the American Guild of Organists Application for Organ Scholarship (See also: Guidelines for Organ Scholarships for full requirements)

Name of Student: _____ Telephone: _____
Address: _____ E-mail: _____
Parent/Guardian's Name: _____ Telephone: _____
Address: _____ E-mail: _____
Age of Student: _____ Current School Grade: _____
Number of Years Studying Piano _____
Other Instruments Studied: _____ Number of Years: _____
Are You a Singer? _____ Number of Years: _____

Why do you want to study organ? (Please write a short essay on the back of this form or attach a separate sheet.)

Commitment statement for student:

As an organ student I make a commitment to practice; to attend lessons and to notify the teacher in advance of any legitimate reason for missing a lesson; I make a commitment to follow the teacher's instructions. I understand that if I fail to honor the terms of the scholarship, the scholarship may be terminated at the teacher's discretion, upon consultation with the Education Committee.

Signature of Student: _____

Commitment statement for parent/guardian:

I promise to support and encourage my child in the study of organ.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Recommendation by current piano teacher:

As a piano teacher, I recommend the above named student for consideration for an organ lesson/Pipe Organ Encounter scholarship. I certify that they are playing at the level of at least Clementi Sonatinas.

Signature of Teacher: _____ Phone: _____

Send this completed application to chapter dean postmarked by April 30.

Alan D. Berlin is dean of the Harrisburg AGO Chapter.

IV. Terms of the Scholarships

a. Scholarship for Organ Lessons

i. Instruction

1. Student will receive one free 30-minute lesson every week for a period of ten weeks.
2. The lesson is to be scheduled at a time and place convenient to both teacher and student.
3. If either student or teacher misses a lesson because of illness or other valid reason, a make-up lesson may be scheduled at the teacher's discretion.

ii. Practice

1. Student must arrange for practice time on an organ with at least two manuals and a 32-note pedalboard.
2. Student should practice at least five hours per week.
3. Student is to follow the teacher's instructions and prepare lessons to the best of his/her ability.

iii. Organ Shoes and Music Books

The student is responsible for providing teacher-approved organ shoes and all music assigned by the teacher.

iv. Subsequent Study

If the student wishes to continue studying with the teacher beyond the ten-week scholarship period, he/she may do so by consent of the teacher and by paying the teacher's standard fee for lessons from that time on.

v. Upon completion of these lessons, the student will be given a one-year student membership in the American Guild of Organists. After that time it is recommended that they renew their membership.

vi. Termination

If the student misses more than two lessons without good reason, or in other ways fails to honor the terms of the scholarship, the scholarship may be terminated at the teacher's discretion, upon consultation with the Education Committee.

b. Scholarship to Pipe Organ Encounter

i. Student will attend a Pipe Organ Encounter sponsored by an AGO chapter.

ii. Student will receive full tuition for the Pipe Organ Encounter.

iii. Student is responsible for transportation to and from the location.

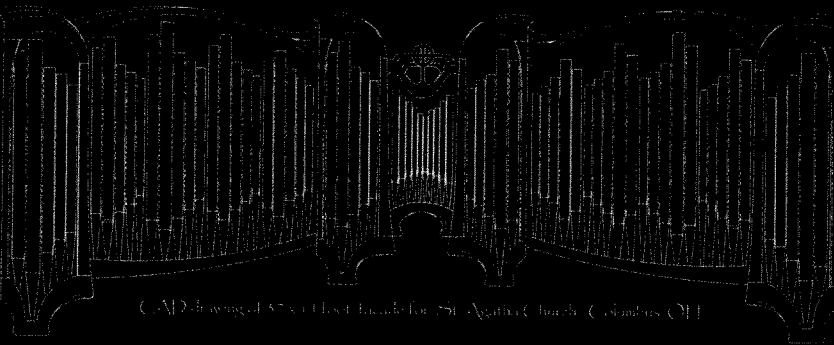
iv. Student is responsible for registering for the event.

v. Student will give a written report of their experience to the dean of the Harrisburg Chapter upon returning from the Encounter and no later than September 15.

vi. Student will be given a one-year student membership in the American Guild of Organists by the Pipe

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Organ Encounter Committee.

V. Application for Scholarship

a. Deadline: April 30 each year

b. Contact the chapter dean.

c. Application form

i. Student's name, address, telephone, and e-mail address.

ii. Parent or guardian's name, address, telephone, and e-mail address.

iii. Student's age and grade in school.

iv. Musical experience

1. Piano—number of years studied.

2. Any other instruments—number of years studied.

3. Voice experience (school chorus, church choir, lessons)—number of years studied.

v. Essay—Why do you want to study organ?

vi. Statement of Commitment—signed by student, parents, and current piano teacher.

1. Commitment to practice.

2. Commitment to attend lessons and to notify teacher in advance of any legitimate reason for missing a lesson.

3. Commitment to follow teacher's instructions.

4. Understanding that if a student fails to honor terms of the scholarship, the scholarship may be terminated at the teacher's discretion, upon consultation with the Education Committee.

5. Recommendation from current piano teacher.

d. Audition (by audio tape to be submitted with application)

i. Applicant will play two piano pieces, one of them from memory, if possible.

ii. Applicant will play 2 two-octave scales and 1 two-octave arpeggio of his/her choosing.