

## New AGO Dues Structure

A new membership dues schedule was approved at the January 2017 meeting of the AGO National Council. Several notable changes were also made to membership categories to better meet the needs of our changing constituency. All changes take effect on April 1 for new members, and on the renewal date for renewing members with expiration dates beginning on or after July 1, 2017.

### Dues

For the first time in two years, modest increases were made across all membership dues categories in response to rising costs of operating a national not-for-profit membership association while combating declining membership totals. Increased operating costs include new and expanded educational programs and the committees that support them, compliance with recent mandates imposed by the Federal Trade Commission, and costs associated with strategic planning to ensure a healthy future for the Guild. The dues change also includes increased support for local chapters.

A discount of \$8 is available to all members who elect to receive electronic delivery of TAO rather than a printed copy. Local chapters will receive the same local dues portion as they do for members who choose printed magazine delivery.

### Membership Categories

The Student membership category (for full-time students) was eliminated and replaced with the Young Organist membership category. This change is to make AGO membership affordable not only for students, but also for recent college graduates who may be seeking employment or working in entry-level positions.

The Partner membership category was eliminated. Partner members paid a reduced rate because they did not receive a second copy of TAO sent to the same address as the primary member. That discounted rate was disproportionate to the actual cost of mailing a second magazine. Partner members still enjoyed 100% of membership benefits.

### FAQs

#### Are my membership dues going up?

If you are a Regular, Special, or National Subscriber: Yes, your dues will go up by \$5. Your local chapter and the national organization will both receive portions of this increase. However, if you choose electronic delivery of TAO, your dues will go down by \$3.

If you are a Student member: Yes, your dues will go up by \$10 when you renew as a Young Organist member. If you choose electronic delivery of TAO, your dues will go up by only \$2.

If you are a Partner member: Yes, your dues will go up by \$30 if you renew as a Regular member and by \$5 if you renew as a Special member. Your dues will go up by \$22 if you renew as a Regular member or down by \$3 if you renew as a Special member and choose electronic delivery of TAO.

### How do AGO membership dues compare to other similar music organizations?

AGO dues are competitive or less than those of comparable music organizations: Regular AGO membership bundled with a printed TAO subscription is 16% less than ACDA and RSCM, 15% less than NAFME (formerly MENC) and 10% less (on average—dues vary by state) than MTNA.

### In addition to the cost savings, are there other advantages to electronic delivery of TAO?

Yes. TAO is already available in electronic form to all members through the AGO website. Those who read the magazine online can take advantage of recorded sound samples of the instruments featured on the cover, hyperlinks from display ads to websites, as well as online keyword and article searches. Of course, there are environmental advantages, as well, to online publishing.

Membership Category	Description	TAO Format	National/Chapter Split	Total Dues
Regular	Ages 30–64, full voting	Print	\$64/41	\$105*
		Online	\$56/41	\$97*
Special	65 and older, full voting	Print	\$47/33	\$80*
		Online	\$39/33	\$72*
Young Organist	Under age 30, full voting	Print	\$32/18	\$50*
		Online	\$24/18	\$42*
Regular Dual	2nd chapter or more	n/a	\$0/41	\$41
Special Dual	2nd chapter or more	n/a	\$0/33	\$33
Young Organist Dual	2nd chapter or more	n/a	\$0/18	\$18
National Subscriber	Nonvoting	Print	n/a	\$70 1 yr. \$130 2 yr. \$180 3 yr.
		Online	n/a	\$62 1 yr. \$114 2 yr. \$162 3 yr.
International Subscriber	Nonvoting	Print	n/a	\$90 1 yr. \$170 2 yr. \$240 3 yr.
		Online	n/a	\$82 1 yr. \$154 2 yr. \$222 3 yr.
*Independent members without chapter affiliation pay the total dues amount to AGO National Headquarters.				