

OFFICIAL RULES GOVERNING THE 2021 AGO/QUIMBY REGIONAL COMPETITIONS FOR YOUNG ORGANISTS

The purpose of these competitions is to encourage younger organists to pursue excellence, to gain performance experience, to develop service playing skills, and to receive recognition for their achievements. The competitions begin at the chapter level and conclude at the seven Regional Competitions. The winner of each Regional Competition will be invited to perform as a Rising Star at the 2022 National Convention in Seattle, Wash. The AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions are made possible by a generous grant from Michael Quimby, president, Quimby Pipe Organs Inc.

Eligibility	Chapter	Regional
	A competitor must be born after December 31, 1998. Membership in the AGO is not required. Applicants who do not reside in the U.S. are responsible for their own travel costs where applicable as well as understanding and complying with U.S. visa requirements.	Same
Competition Dates and Procedure	The competition is to be held between February 13 and April 18, 2021. All 2021 chapter competitions will be held remotely. Competitors at the chapter level will create and submit recordings that will be judged on the day of the competition.	
Competitor Application	Applications must be submitted online no later than January 15, 2021. Online applications are available at AGOhq.org. A competitor may only enter in the AGO region of either: • the school at which the competitor is currently enrolled OR • the competitor's permanent legal residence OR • the chapter of which the competitor has been a member for at least a year.	
Repertoire	Competitors will perform the following four selections: 1. A prelude (a toccata or fantasia is acceptable) and fugue or two contrasting movements of a trio sonata by Bach. BWV 582 is acceptable; BWV 553–560 and 572 are not acceptable. 2. Any one work, composed after 1750, of the competitor's choice (a movement of a larger work, such as a symphony, is acceptable) 3. Any two movements of <i>Sonata in Sea: Cape Cod</i> by James Woodman. If timing permits, competitors may perform all three movements if desired. The music can be purchased with the online application (\$20). Several pages are available for viewing on the AGO website. 4. Hymn—choose one: SLANE DIX HANSON PLACE The competitor will introduce the hymn as though leading a large, enthusiastic congregation in the singing of all stanzas. At least the first stanza of the hymn must be played from the version downloaded from AGOhq.org. Published, improvised, or transposed arrangements may be used for the introduction and any subsequent stanza, if desired.	Competitors will perform five selections: 1. Competitors will perform the same three repertoire selections from the Chapter Round. 2. Also performed is an additional work of the competitor's choice. This additional work could be the previously unplayed movement of <i>Sonata in Sea: Cape Cod</i> . (When choosing this additional work, competitors should keep in mind the balance of the program.) 3. Hymn—choose one: ABBOT'S LEIGH ANCIENT WORDS NETTLETON The competitor will introduce the hymn as though leading a large, enthusiastic congregation in the singing of all stanzas. At least the first stanza of the hymn must be played from the version downloaded from AGOhq.org. Published, improvised, or transposed arrangements may be used for the introduction and any subsequent stanza, if desired.
Total Performance Time (three works + hymn)	The total recorded performance time is not to exceed 40 minutes.	The total performance time is not to exceed 50 minutes, including piston setting.
Awards	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 incurred for participation at 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 will be presented in a 45-minute recital at the Regional Convention. All first-place winners will be invited to perform at the 2022 National Convention in Seattle, Wash.
Official Registration Form and Official Rules	Available from AGO Headquarters Email: competitions@agohq.org; Website: AGOhq.org Phone: 212-870-2310; Fax: 212-870-2163	NA
Registration Fee	\$60 (includes \$10 purchase of <i>Sonata in Sea: Cape Cod</i>) nonrefundable; payable online	NA

Regional Competitions for Young Organists Committee

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AGO Headquarters has created and will maintain an online list of 2021 chapter-hosted competitions. The full list will be available in October 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all 2021 chapter competitions will be held remotely. All performances will be prerecorded and submitted to the hosting chapter.

The **Regional Competition Coordinator**, appointed by the Regional Councillor, is responsible for overseeing and advising all RCYO processes in a given region of the Guild. The **Convention Competition Coordinator** is a member of the Regional Convention Steering Committee in each region, responsible for the management of the Regional Competition.

REGISTRATION

1. Where you may compete

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

- the school at which the competitor is currently enrolled OR
- the competitor's permanent legal residence OR
- the chapter of which the competitor has been a member for at least a year.

No competitor may enter more than one Chapter Competition during this competition period (spring 2021). For information on chapters that plan to hold competitions, see the online list at Agohq.org.

2. Who may compete

Competitors must be born after December 31, 1998. Membership in the AGO is not required. Past first-place Regional Competition winners are ineligible to compete.

3. How to enter

Each competitor must submit the following items online at Agohq.org:

- official application form
- proof of age (photocopy of driver's license, birth certificate, or passport)
- \$60 nonrefundable registration fee (includes \$10 purchase of *Sonata in Sea: Cape Cod*)
- biography and headshot photograph

Applications must be submitted no later than January 15, 2021.

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

4. Creating a Recording for the Chapter Competition

Each chapter competitor will create an audio recording of all the required repertoire with the aid of a proctor. The proctor will receive a \$25 honorarium from the host chapter. The only people present at the time of the recording should be the competitor, the proctor, the (optional) page turner, and any required parent or responsible guardian. The proctor at the recording session must be approved by the chapter coordinator; he or she can also be a page turner. The recording must be continuous and unedited. The proctor will announce the candidate by his/her identification code as well as the selection of music. At the end of the recording session, the proctor should check the recording to ensure it is complete and upload it using the link provided on AGOhq.org.

GENERAL RULES

The RCYO 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 RCYO Committee are to be considered an official part of these rules.

1. Music scores

The use of photocopies of scores in public domain (copyright before 1923) is acceptable. 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. Permission to print four copies of *Sonata in Sea: Cape Cod* is granted with the online purchase of the music at the time of the application.

2. Page turners

The competitor may provide a page turner for the competition recording. The proctor may also act as page turner. The page turner may not assist or advise the competitor in any way during the recording except for turning pages.

3. 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 Regional Competition Coordinator, the Vice President/Councillor for Competitions, and: (1) at the Chapter level, the Dean of the Chapter and Chapter Competition Coordinator; (2) at the Regional level, the Convention Competition Coordinator. Any questions regarding interpretation of the rules should be addressed to the Regional Competition Coordinator or AGO Headquarters.

4. Withholding prizes

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

5. 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. Chapters hosting a competition

- Each hosting Chapter must specify the maximum number of competitors that the Chapter can accommodate.
- No more than six competitions will be held in each Region. The Regional Competitions Coordinator, in collaboration with the Regional Councillor, will determine the six hosting chapters.
- Chapters within the same region may combine to hold a competition if fewer competitors enter than expected.
- Chapters hosting a Competition will be posted online at AGOhq.org as soon as the chapter application is received.

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. Chapter 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 email.

3. When to hold the Chapter Competition

The competition must be held between February 13 and April 18, 2021.

4. Choosing an organ for the competitor

The competitor may choose the organ on which to record his or her competition entry. Where possible, the organ should be in good working condition and adequate to play all chosen literature. Competitors may set pistons and the use of sequencers is allowed. It is the competitor's responsibility to schedule any needed practice time on the chosen organ.

5. Appointing judges

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. All performances are judged anonymously. If any of these parties has a student who is a competitor, he or she cannot be a judge. 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 Competition Coordinator at least 20 days prior to the date of the Chapter Competition.

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.

The names of the judges will not be made public until the conclusion of the competition.

6. Changes in the competitor's repertoire

Any change in the repertoire that was entered in the online application must be made in writing to the Chapter Competition Coordinator no less than 30 days in advance of the Chapter Competition.

7. Competition performance

- a. The total recorded performance 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.

8. Single competitor

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

9. 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 at the recording session. The Chapter is not responsible for any expenses for the accompanying adult.

10. 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 without indicating the respective players.
- Have at least one alternate judge on the competition day readily available to serve if required.
- Remind judges to provide signed, written comments to competitors concerning their performances. Verbal discussion with the competitors following the competition is encouraged.
- Provide judges with the official form to score and rate competitors (downloadable from 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.
- Encourage remote audience attendance at the competition, ensuring a supportive environment for competitors and possibly singing the hymns. Provide copies of the three hymns to audience members.
- Consult the Chapter Coordinator Checklist for more detailed instructions.

11. 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.

12. Chapter financial responsibilities

- a. Each Chapter will receive 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. The Chapter is also encouraged to present the winner in recital.
- c. The first-place winner receives a free AGO membership for one year to be paid from the Regional Councillor's budget.
- d. The Chapter is responsible for any charges imposed for the use of facilities.
- e. The Chapter is expected to assist with, or cover, expenses a judge incurs pursuant to his/her participation in the Chapter Competition; an honorarium might be provided but is not required.

13. Reporting results

Immediately upon conclusion of the Chapter Competition, the Chapter Coordinator must forward copies of the photographs and biographies of the first- and second-place winners and a complete list of all competitors with their updated contact information to the Regional Competition Coordinator. These materials should be provided no later than April 30, 2021.