



OFFICIAL RULES GOVERNING THE REGIONAL ROUND OF 2023 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. These competitions begin at the chapter level and conclude at the seven regional conventions. The winner of each regional competition will be invited to perform as a Rising Star at the 2024 National Convention in San Francisco. The AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions are made possible by a generous grant from Michael Quimby, president, Quimby Pipe Organs Inc.

REGIONAL ROUND COMPETITION DATES

The competition is to be held concurrently with the regional conventions in June/July 2023.

REGIONAL ROUND REPERTOIRE LIST

Competitors will perform five selections:

1. The same three repertoire selections from the chapter round.
 - a. 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.
 - b. Any one work, composed after 1750, of the competitor's choice. A movement of a larger work, such as a symphony, is acceptable.
 - c. A contemporary piece of the competitor's choice published after 1950.
2. An additional work of the competitor's choice. When choosing this additional work, competitors should keep in mind the balance of the program.
3. Hymn—choose one:
EVENTIDE
MONK'S GATE
WESTMINSTER ABBEY

The competitor will introduce the hymn and lead the audience in the singing of all verses. 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 verse, if desired.

REGIONAL ROUND TOTAL PERFORMANCE TIME

The total performance time is not to exceed 50 minutes.

REGIONAL ROUND AWARDS

\$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 2024 National Convention in San Francisco.

REGIONAL ROUND 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. Recordings

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

2. Applause

Applause is only permitted at the conclusion of each competitor's complete program.

3. Page turners

The Regional Convention 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 turner/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. Music scores

The use of photocopies of scores in public domain (all works published in 1927 or earlier are in the public domain in the United States as of January 1, 2023) 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.

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 Vice President/Councillor for Competitions, and the Convention Competition Coordinator. Any questions regarding interpretation of the rules should be addressed to the Regional Competition Coordinator or AGO Headquarters.

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 REGIONAL-LEVEL COMPETITIONS

1. Appointing the 2023 Convention Competition Coordinator.

The Regional Convention Coordinator will appoint a member of the Regional Convention Steering Committee to be the Convention Competition Coordinator. This appointee must be reported to the Regional Councillor and Regional Competition Coordinator no later than February 1, 2023. Convention Competition Coordinators must have regular access to email.

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 2023. 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 Competition Coordinator, Regional Convention Coordinator, and Convention 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 a wide range of literature, and in excellent working condition. It must have a reliable combination action, preferably with multiple levels of memory. The Convention Competition Coordinator 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 Convention 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 one alternate will be appointed no later than May 15, 2023, in consultation among the Regional Competition Coordinator, the Regional Convention Coordinator, and the Convention Competition Coordinator. If any of these parties has a student who is a competitor, he or she cannot be a judge. These judges should be highly knowledgeable with regard to organ literature and performance practice.

b. Neither the Regional Councillor, the Regional Competition Coordinator, the Regional Convention Coordinator, nor the Convention Competition Coordinator may serve as a judge in his or her own Region.

c. Neither judges nor Coordinators of Chapter Competitions may serve as judges of a Regional Competition in the same Region.

d. No past or present teachers 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 15, 2023, the Convention 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. A minimum of three hours of practice on the competition instrument is to be arranged by the Convention 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.

b. Competitors may not listen to one another practice. Competitors may record their practice time but may not record another competitor's practice time.

c. Practice time is typically scheduled during the three to four days immediately preceding the competition. Competitors should plan to make themselves available during the day on whichever day they are assigned, keeping in mind that many churches are available only from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. for practice. In every situation, the Coordinator must be fair and equitable to all competitors and should make every effort to accommodate the competitors' schedules within reason.

7. Competition performance

a. Each competitor must perform the same three repertoire selections for the Regional Competition as performed in the Chapter Competition.

b. Each competitor must also perform a freely chosen additional work, keeping in mind the balance of the resulting program.

c. Each competitor must accompany congregational singing of a hymn.

d. The total time of the four works and the hymn must not exceed 50 minutes.

e. The four works and the hymn may be played in any order preferred by the competitor.

8. Screening the competitors from view

While performing, competitors must be screened from the view of the judges but may be visible to the audience. Competitors may not be present in the audience at any time.

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 Convention Competition Coordinator

- 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 immediately adjacent to 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 competitor performing.
- 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 audience attendance at the Competition, ensuring a supportive environment for competitors and an assembly to sing the hymns. Provide copies of the three appointed hymns to audience members.
- Consult the Convention 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 will be invited to perform a 45-minute recital during the Regional Convention. In the event the first-place winner cannot perform, the second-place winner will be invited to play.

c. The winner of each Regional Competition will be invited to perform at the 2024 National Convention in San Francisco. In the event the first-place winner cannot perform, the second-place winner will be invited to play.

d. Winners will be featured in THE AMERICAN ORGANIST.

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 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 if there are one or two competitors, plus \$25 for each additional competitor over two, along with complimentary convention registration (excluding banquets, transportation, etc.), to be provided 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.

14. Reporting results

Upon conclusion of the Regional Competition, the Convention 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, 2023.

15. Responsibilities of the Regional Competition Coordinator

- Ensure that information on Chapter Competition first- and second-place winners (names, contact information, photographs, and biographies) is delivered to the Convention Competition Coordinator as soon as available, but no later than May 1, 2023.
- Make certain that the instrument to be used for the Regional Competition meets the criteria set forth in these rules.
- Together with the Regional Councillor, encourage chapters to sponsor the winner of the Regional Competition in recitals throughout the Region following the competition. Encourage the Region's upcoming Pipe Organ Encounter to feature the winner in its programming, as appropriate. Competition winners are under no obligation to perform for less than their customary professional fees for such appearances.
- In collaboration with the RCYO Committee and the Regional Councillor, oversee all components of the Chapter and Regional Competitions process for RCYO. The Regional Competition Coordinator serves as a resource and first point of contact for all questions relating to RCYO within a region.

Regional Competitions for Young Organists Committee

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