



2023 AGO / QUIMBY REGIONAL COMPETITIONS FOR YOUNG ORGANISTS CHECKLIST FOR REGIONAL CONVENTION COMPETITION COORDINATORS

NOTE: All publicity, correspondence, and documentation concerning the competition should use its correct name: **AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists.**

The Convention Competition Coordinator **must** have regular access to email and be proficient in its use.

The Convention Competition Coordinator will:

- Become familiar with the 2023 Regional Round Competition Guidelines (<https://www.agohq.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-Regional-Competition-Guidelines.pdf>). They are also downloadable online at www.agohq.org/performance-competitions/rcyo.
- Receive information (including names, contact information, photographs and biographies) about all winners of chapter-level competitions in the region from the Regional Competition Coordinator or National Headquarters no later than **April 30, 2023**.
- Submit the names, photographs, and biographies of the chapter competition winners to be included in the convention program book.
- Notify all chapter competition winners of the date and place of the regional competition by **May 15, 2023**. Provide detailed information on the instrument: specification, compass, manual layout, number and location of pistons for each division, availability of memory levels, and other console accessories.
- Schedule practice time and notify competitors of the schedules. Each competitor must receive a minimum of three hours practice on the competition instrument. In addition, each competitor must be given thirty minutes on the competition instrument on the day of the competition. Inform the competitors that late arrival will result in forfeiting their full practice time. See Section 6 of the “Rules for Regional Level Competitions” for more information.
- Identify other local venues (churches, college/university facilities) where competitors may practice when they are not using the competition. Schedule access to those instruments and the competition instrument from the date the competitors arrive through the day of the competition.
- Notify competitors of the details of lodging (convention hotel is strongly recommended), transportation, meals, and any other hospitality items during the competition period; convention registration for all the competitors is complimentary. State clearly the date on which the competition period ends and when competitors assume responsibility for their own expenses. Also emphasize that chaperones will not receive any remuneration from the Guild. See Sections 10 and 13.a of the rules for convention financial responsibilities.
- Appoint three judges and one alternate no later than **May 15, 2023**, in consultation with the Regional Competition Coordinator, the Regional Convention Coordinator, and the Convention Competition Coordinator. If any of these parties has a student that is a competitor, he or she cannot be a judge. These judges should be highly knowledgeable with regard to organ literature and

performance practice. Refer to the competitor applications to ensure that no past or present teacher of a competitor, or any other teacher associated with a school attended by a competitor, serves as a judge for the competition.

- The Convention Competition Coordinator must ensure that, for each piece performed during the competition, each judge has a perusal score available during the competitors' performances. Remind the competitors that they are responsible for obtaining three copies (one for each judge) of each of their selections. Under no circumstances are competitors allowed to distribute (or play from) photocopies unless they have written permission from the publisher; violation of this rule is grounds for disqualification. Exceptions to this rule apply only to reductions for performance and to pages duplicated for the purpose of facilitating page turns. Accordingly, judges might be encouraged to bring personal scores for this purpose; alternatively, coordinators might work with the competitors themselves to ensure availability of these materials. Any identifying marks on perusal scores should be erased or concealed. Obtaining 3 scores can be a lengthy process. The following list suggests various ways to acquire scores:
 - Contact friends, teachers, AGO chapter members, or other colleagues for permission to borrow their copies.
 - Borrow scores through academic library consortia.
 - Use Interlibrary Loan through local public or academic libraries, realizing that this can take several weeks. The WorldCat database indicates the locations of the nearest libraries that have the score(s) in question in their collections.
 - Purchase new copies.
 - Request written permission from the copyright holder(s) – typically the publisher - to photocopy the score(s).

At least 20 days prior to the competition:

- Competitors are expected to “accompany” (instead of “perform”) a hymn in each RCYO round. To ensure realistic conditions for these hymn accompaniments, it is important for Convention Competition Coordinators to encourage adequate audience attendance at the competition rounds, thereby providing a singing “congregation.”
- Inform the judges of the works (including editions of Bach works) to be performed. Judges may use their own scores.
- Print three copies each of the downloaded hymns chosen by the competitors:
www.agohq.org/performance-competitions/rcyo/.
- Secure page-turners/assistants for competitors as requested, using neutral parties from the local chapter hosting the regional convention rather than persons known to the competitors. Assistants are prohibited from pulling stops or advising competitors in any way.
- Assign a monitor to be present during the practice sessions. The monitor **cannot** be the same person as the page-turner/assistant or the competitor’s chaperone. The monitor should be stationed in a location that permits observation of the competitors without distracting them.
- Arrange for an instrument to be available for each competitor for warming up prior to their performance. This may be either a second organ or a piano.
- Allow competitors to sign up for practice time on other local organs (see above). Arrange transportation for those who request it.
- Confirm with the Convention Treasurer that sufficient funds for the first- and second-place prizes have been received from National Headquarters.

Immediately prior to the competition:

- Assign the actual performance time for each competitor and notify them. Build extra time into the schedule in case emergencies arise.
- Give each competitor a phone number, preferably cell, at which you can easily be reached.
- Check the condition of the instrument to be used for the competition and ensure that it has been properly tuned. Report any mechanical problems to the resident organist.
- Learn how the performance venue functions: lights, sound system, keys, signage, locations of restrooms, and water fountains, etc.
- Identify and prepare a “green room” space for the competitors.
- Prepare a printed program of the competition performances, omitting the performers’ names.
- Prepare any necessary checks for the judges. See Section 13.c of the rules for details.

During the practice period:

- Supervise the beginning and end of each practice time or assign someone else to do so.
- No one is permitted in the room during practice except the competitor, a page-turner/assistant, and the monitor. Neither the competitor’s teacher nor his/her chaperone may be present during practice.
- If possible, have someone familiar with the competition instrument on site during practice times.
- Assigned memory levels should be random and confidential. Do not post a list of the assigned levels. Make sure the level is reset after each competitor practices to avoid the possibility of copying/tampering.
- Encourage competitors to report any mechanical malfunctions. Furnish a notepad for this purpose.
- ***Competitors may not listen to one another practice. Competitors may record their practice time but may not record another competitor’s practice time.***

During the competition:

- Competitors may not be present in the audience at any time.
- Ensure that the judges are positioned where they can best hear the competition instrument yet are not seated immediately adjacent to one another. The judges must be screened so they cannot visually identify the competitor; make sure that the screening is tall enough to conceal all the competitors from view. The competitors may be visible to the audience.
- Make certain that the judges arrive at the competition site **at least 30 minutes early** to examine the console, play the organ, and acquaint themselves with its sound.
- Provide the judges with a list of any uncorrected mechanical problems.
- Provide judges with the official form to score and rate the competitors available on the RCYO link above. A copy of the 2023 Regional Round Competition Guidelines (<https://www.agohq.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-Regional-Competition-Guidelines.pdf>) should also be available for their use.
- Instruct the judges to provide signed, written comments to the competitors concerning their performances.
- Make certain that each judge has copies of the works to be performed and a copy of each competitor’s choice of hymn.
- Remind judges of differences in editions.

- Remind judges that the purpose of the competition is to **encourage** young organists. Judging should be based primarily on the differences in the quality of the performance rather than the differences in the difficulty of the work chosen. Even though judges can decide to withhold a prize, they should keep in mind the age of these players and their stage of development.
- Remind judges that this stage of the competition is the conclusion of the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists. The winner will be invited to perform as a “Rising Star” at the 2024 National Convention in San Francisco, CA.
- Be responsible for conducting the competition on an efficient schedule.
- Serve as “Master of Ceremonies” unless the Councillor for the Region is invited to do so. Use the script available on the RCYO link above.

Immediately after the competition:

- Meet with the judges to facilitate their decision-making concerning first- and second-place winners.
- 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, then the judges will determine the first- and second-place winners by consensus.
- Encourage the judges to speak with the competitors about their performances after the results are announced.
- Conclude the competition as “Master of Ceremonies” unless the Regional Councillor is invited to do so. Use the script cited above.
- Encourage the competitors to send thank-you notes to Michael Quimby.
- Confirm arrangements for a 45-minute recital by the first-place winner at the Convention.
- Give the judges any necessary honorarium checks.
- Obtain the social security numbers of the 1st and 2nd place winners’ and give these to the Regional Convention Treasurer so that the prizes may be awarded.
- Prepare a 1099 form for the first-place winner.
- Distribute the judges’ comment sheets to the competitors.
- Electronically submit the photographs, biographies, and updated contact information for the first- and second-place winners to AGO National Headquarters **no later than August 1, 2023**.

If you have any questions, contact AGO Headquarters, 212-870-2311, ext. 4320 or competitions@agohq.org. **Thank you for volunteering for this important role!**

RCYO Committee

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**2023 AGO / QUIMBY REGIONAL COMPETITIONS FOR YOUNG ORGANISTS
“SCRIPT” FOR REGIONAL COMPETITION COORDINATORS**

Remarks prior to competition performance:

- Welcome to the competition.
- Note the locations of restrooms and water fountains.
- Announce the performance schedule of the competitors.
- Audience members may enter or leave only between pieces, not during playing.
- Generous sponsorship of the AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists comes from Michael Quimby, President of Quimby Pipe Organs, Warrensburg, Missouri.
- RCYO is a two-part process:
 - Each contestant participated in a chapter-level competition held in the Region between February 11th and April 23rd of this year.
 - Name the states (and countries, if applicable) included in the Region.
 - First-place winner at the regional level is invited to perform as a “Rising Star” at the 2024 National Convention in San Francisco, CA. RCYO ends at the regional level, and competitors do not advance to a national competition.
- No recording, photography, or applause is allowed.
- Turn off cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices.
- Judges may not speak to audience members until after the competition results have been announced.
- Each competitor’s program should be announced; for example, “Competitor X will play the following pieces in this order...” Be careful to **not** refer to competitors as he or she.

Remarks after competition has concluded & coordinator is ready to announce results:

- Introduce and thank the judges and competitors.
- Encourage the competitors to speak with judges about their performances.
- Comment sheets will be distributed later by the Competition Coordinator.
- Announce the winners: second-place winner, then first-place winner.
- Reiterate that the first-place winner at the regional level is invited to perform as a “Rising Star” at the 2024 National Convention in San Francisco, CA.
- Encourage chapters to sponsor the winner of the Regional Competition in recitals throughout the region following the competition. These future recitalists should be remunerated appropriately if they do not have a set fee.

2023 AGO / QUIMBY REGIONAL COMPETITIONS FOR YOUNG ORGANISTS INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE JUDGES

The purpose of this competition 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 at the 2024 National Convention in San Francisco, CA. The AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists are made possible by a generous grant from Michael Quimby, President, Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc.

Judges' Instructions: Each judge is expected to provide signed comments to competitors concerning their performances. These comments should be of a positive and constructive nature rather than destructive and should in no way ridicule the performer. It is our goal to make these performances both motivating and encouraging – please remember to point out what is done well in addition to what needs work. Judges should allow for a tasteful difference of opinion in matters of style, interpretation, registration, etc. The coordinator will tell you the order in which each competitor's pieces will be played before he or she begins. Please write comments for each piece performed. Discussion with the competitors is encouraged at the conclusion of the competition.

As you judge, consider:

- Accuracy
- Rhythmic security and freedom
- Tempo
- Phrasing and articulation
- Registration
- Awareness of stylistic period
- Musicianship and imagination

Assign points for EACH PIECE according to the following guide:

90 – 100	Outstanding performance, with few or no accuracy problems. Excellent sense of tempo, articulation, style, etc. All factors working together!
80 – 89	Very good in most respects, but still needs work in one or more areas.
70 – 79	More problems with accuracy, rhythm, etc.; needs even more work.
60 – 69	Many weak areas.

Remember that outstanding performances can occur at any playing level – points should be given based on the quality of the performance, not the difficulty level of the music. The focus should be on achieving excellence in performance at the level the competitor plays and not ambition that results in a compromised performance.

**2023 AGO/QUIMBY REGIONAL COMPETITIONS FOR YOUNG ORGANISTS
OFFICIAL JUDGING FORM**

While there is no mandatory method of judging, each judge must be consistent, using the same method of evaluation for all competitors. Each judge is to assign points for each piece, based on the scale in the judges' instructions. Following the competition, the judges will total their points for each competitor and rank them 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. based on the point totals. The competition coordinator will then total the rankings (not the total points) and determine the winners. In the event of a tie for the lowest ranking point total, the winners will be determined by the sum of the points. If this still results in a tie, the judges will decide the winners by consensus. The judges may decide by consensus to withhold either prize due to lack of merit.

Comments: Each judge is expected to provide written comments to competitors concerning their performance. These comments should be of a positive and constructive nature rather than destructive and should in no way ridicule the performer. Judges should allow for a tasteful difference of opinion in matters of style, interpretation, registration, etc. Comments should be signed by the judges. Verbal discussion is also strongly encouraged, after the judging forms have been submitted to the competition coordinator.

Competitor (# in order of appearance): _____

Bach work: _____

Points _____

A work composed after 1750 : _____

Points _____

A contemporary work composed after 1950: _____

Points _____

Competitor's choice of an additional work: _____

Points _____

Hymn (circle one of the following): Eventide, Monk’s Gate, Westminster Abbey

The competitor is expected to 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 or improvised arrangements may be used for the introduction and any subsequent verse if the competitor desires.

Competitors are to prepare the hymn (in matters of registration, tempo, etc.) as though accompanying a normal Sunday congregation in the competition venue. A competitor’s performance is evaluated on execution (consistency of tempo, accuracy of notes, etc.) and appropriateness of artistic choices in relation to tune and text. The competitor is not penalized if planned registration choices do not comfortably coalesce with the size of the singing assembly gathered for the competition itself.

Points _____

Signature of Judge: _____

**2023 AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists
Competition Coordinator – Instructions for tallying points**

Each judge will award points for each piece performed on a 100-point scale, as indicated in the judging instructions. Following the competition, **each judge will total the points for each performer and based on those totals, rank the competitors 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.**

The Competition Coordinator will tally the **rankings** for each competitor and announce the ranking point totals to the judges. First and second prizes will be awarded according to the order of ranking point totals (lowest to highest) unless the judges decide by consensus to withhold either prize due to lack of merit.

Example:

	Ranking from judge 1	Ranking from judge 2	Ranking from judge 3	Total Ranking points	Prizes
Competitor A	1 st	2 nd	4 th	7	Second prize
Competitor B	3 rd	3 rd	3 rd	9	
Competitor C	2 nd	1 st	1 st	4	First prize
Competitor D	4 th	4 th	2 nd	10	

Order of ranking points, from low to high:

Competitor C: 4 First prize

Competitor A: 7 Second prize

Competitor B: 9

Competitor D: 10