

OFFICIAL RULES GOVERNING THE 2015 AGO/QUIMBY REGIONAL COMPETITIONS FOR YOUNG ORGANISTS

The purpose of these competitions is to encourage younger organists to pursue excellence, to gain performance experience, 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 2016 National Convention in Houston, Texas. The AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions are made possible by a generous grant from Michael Quimby, President, Quimby Pipe Organs Inc.

| | Chapter | Regional |
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| Eligibility | A competitor must be under 24 years of age as of August 1, 2015. Membership in the AGO is not required. | Same |
| Competition Dates | The competition is to be held between February 15 and April 15, 2015. | The competition is to be held concurrent with the Regional Conventions in June/July 2015. |
| Competitor Application | Applications must be submitted online no later than January 15, 2015. Applications are available at Agohq.org. A competitor must enter only in the AGO region of either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. A prescribed American work: Zachary Wadsworth (b. 1983): Variations on an Old American Tune (2010) (available for purchase at Zacharywadsworth.com) 3. Any one work, composed after 1750, of the competitor's choice (a movement of a larger work, such as a symphony, is acceptable) 4. Hymn—choose one Hyfrydol (Love Divine, All Loves Excelling) Cwm Rhondda (Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah) Ein Feste Burg (A Mighty Fortress) <p>The competitor will introduce the hymn and <i>lead the audience in the singing</i> 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 desired.</p> | Competitors will perform five selections: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Competitors will again perform the same three repertoire selections from the Chapter Round. 2. Also performed is 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: Leoni (The God of Abraham Praise) Mit Freuden zart (Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above) Aberystwyth (Jesus, Lover of My Soul) <p>The competitor will introduce the hymn and <i>lead the audience in the singing</i> 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 desired.</p> |
| Total Performance Time (three works + hymn) | The total performance time is not to exceed 40 minutes, including piston setting. | 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 for traveling to 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 is to be presented in a 45-minute recital at the Regional Convention. All first-place winners will be invited to perform at the 2016 National Convention in Houston, Tex. |
| Official Registration Form and Official Rules | Available from AGO Headquarters, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260, New York, NY 10115; phone: 212-870-2310; fax: 212-870-2163; email: info@agohq.org; website: Agohq.org. | NA |
| Registration Fee | \$50 (nonrefundable); payable online | NA |

National Competitions Committee

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Regional Competition Coordinators

Northeast Region: Bryan Kirk (bbkirk@fpcgf.org)
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Reflecting the outcomes of the Guild's 2013 Competitions Review Process, these RCYO rules have evolved since the previous cycle of the competition. Competitors and organizers should study them carefully.

The full list of chapter competitions, as well as the official online application and supporting materials, will be available at Agohq.org in October 2014.

The **Regional Competition Coordinator** is a newly developed position, appointed by the Regional Councillor, 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 held in conjunction with the Regional Convention.

REGISTRATION

1. Where you may compete

A competitor must enter only 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 2015). For information on chapters that plan to hold competitions, see the listing on the Guild's website (Agohq.org).

2. Who may compete

A competitor must be under 24 years of age as of August 1, 2015. 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)
- \$50 nonrefundable registration fee
- biography and headshot photograph

Applications must be submitted no later than January 15, 2015.

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

GENERAL 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 Chapter Competition Coordinator and 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 (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.

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 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.

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 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.
- Chapters hosting a Competition are published online at Agohq.org.

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 15 and April 15, 2015.

4. Choosing an organ for the competition

It is imperative that the organ chosen for the competition be adequate to play a wide range of literature and that it be in excellent working condition. This instrument should be the best available, one that projects well into the room and encourages the most sensitive playing. It must have a reliable combination action, preferably with multiple levels of memory. The instrument must not be one that any of the competitors uses regularly.

At least one month before the competition, the Chapter Competition Coordinator will 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.

The Chapter Competition Coordinator will personally inspect the instrument to be used for the competition, making certain that it complies with all requirements. This must be done early, before the location of the competition is confirmed. As the competition approaches, the Coordinator will again personally check to ensure that the organ is in tune and ready. The Coordinator must provide the judges with notice of any uncorrected problems prior to the competition.

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. 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. Scheduling practice time

A minimum of three hours of practice on the competition instrument must be arranged by the Chapter Competition Coordinator for each competitor. Competitors may be given additional practice time, to be divided equally among all competitors. In addition, each competitor must be allowed at least 30 minutes on the competition instrument on the day of the competition. Competitors may not listen to each other practice.

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. Changes in the competitor's repertoire

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

8. Competition performance

- a. The total 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 preferred by the competitor.

9. Screening the competitors from view

Competitors must be screened from the view of the judges, but may be visible to the audience.

10. Single competitor

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

11. 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 Chapter is not responsible for any expenses for the accompanying adult.

12. 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.
- 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 Chapter Coordinator Checklist for more detailed instructions.

13. 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.

14. Chapter financial responsibilities

- a. 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 and to assist the winner in covering the expenses of traveling to the Regional Convention. The Chapter is also encouraged to present the winner in recital.
- c. The first-place winner receives free membership in the AGO for one year. Contact AGO Headquarters for information.
- 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.

15. 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, 2015.

RULES FOR REGIONAL-LEVEL COMPETITIONS

1. Appointing the 2015 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, 2015. 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 2015.

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 two alternates will be appointed no later than May 15, 2015, in consultation among the Regional Competition Coordinator, 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, 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 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.

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, 2015, 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 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. Competitors may not listen to each other practice.

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, including piston setting.

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

8. Screening the competitors from view

Competitors must be screened from the view of the judges, but may be visible to the audience.

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 2016 National Convention in Houston, Tex. 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 at 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, 2015.

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, 2015.
- 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 National Competitions 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.