

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS CENTENNIAL PRIZEWINNING WORKS AND COMMISSIONS

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The American Guild of Organists has a long record of encouraging composers of organ and choral music through competitions and commissions. At one of the first meetings of the National Council, June 1, 1896, plans were announced for an annual composition contest, the award a gold medal provided by Walter J. Clemson of Taunton, Massachusetts. The prize was established in the form of a gold medal "that it may have distinctly the character of an honor conferred, rather than that of a reward for labor done."

Will C. Macfarlane was the winner in 1897 of the first Clemson Gold Medal. The composition contest was held for a number of years thereafter, with the winning pieces performed at the annual Public Service of the Guild. The winning anthems were published by the Novello Company, and the H.W. Gray Company added a cash prize of \$50 to each winner. All of these anthems are out of print. Among the winning composers are some of the founders of the Guild, as well as other outstanding figures in the music world. The list of the winning anthems follows:

- 1897 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom (anthem for four voices)—Will C. Macfarlane
- 1898 The Lord shall comfort Zion (anthem for soprano and tenor solos and chorus)—Smith N. Penfield
- 1899 I beheld, and lo! (anthem for quartet and chorus, dedicated to the choir of Trinity Church, San Francisco)—Humphrey J. Stewart
- 1904 Thou, O God, art praised in Zion (anthem with baritone and soprano solos)—James S. Ford
- 1908 Come, Holy Ghost (anthem for Whitsunday, Confirmation, or Ordination Service, four-part chorus with tenor solo)—William Y. Webbe
- 1910 O brightness of the immortal Father's face (Hymn of Sophronius, seventh century, set to music for five-part chorus)—Mark Andrews
- 1911 How do thy mercies close me round (anthem for four voices with solo for soprano or tenor, the words written by Charles Wesley)—Herbert Sanders
- 1912 Hear my prayer, O God—William Berwald
- 1913 Angels, from the realms of glory (four voices with soprano or tenor solo, text by J. Montgomery)—Herbert Sanders
- 1914 Thou, O God, art praised in Zion—Charles Henry Doersam
- 1915 Hear, O Thou Shepherd of Israel—Gottfried H. Federlein
- 1917 God is our refuge—Hugh Kinzey
- 1918 The Lord is King—Frances McCollin
- 1919 O come, O come, Emmanuel—T. Frederick H. Candlyn
- 1920 Eternal Light—Orlando A. Mansfield

The Clemson Gold Medal Contests were discontinued, but in 1925 Hope Leroy Baumgartner won the AGO prize of \$50 for *In Him we live*. After that there are no records of official AGO anthem contests, but there were numerous competitions sponsored by other organizations with the Guild's approval: The H.W. Gray Co., *The Diapason*, and J. Fischer & Bro. Although sanctioned by the Guild, they do not qualify as official AGO competitions. Among the winners of these contests are familiar names: Harold W. Friedell, Channing Lefebvre, Jane M. Marshall, Barrie Cabena, Leon Verrees, George Mead Jr., George Frederick McKay, Camil Van Hulse, Ivan Langstroth, and many more.

In more recent times it has been the role of the AGO national conventions to commission composers to write works specifically for performance at the conventions or to obtain compositions through competitions. These have produced a wealth of organ and choral literature, much of it published and waiting to be performed. In addition to these officially named compositions, there are many others, privately commissioned for conventions by individuals and organizations. Again, these are not considered official AGO works, even though they were con-

ceived for and performed at the national conventions. Many works have also been written for regional conventions, but they are not included in this listing. Except for the compositions assigned to a publisher, all the works are in manuscript unless they were published subsequent to the convention at which they were performed.

The information about these compositions has been gleaned from national convention program books. Because of advanced printing deadlines, some titles are incomplete. Also, there may be omissions, for which we apologize. This is the catalog of AGO-commissioned works from recent years:

Laudes Organi—Zoltán Kodály, commissioned for the 1966 AGO national convention in Atlanta

Laudes Tonales, organ and brass—Norberto Guinaldo (Shawnee Press), winning composition in contest sponsored by 1970 AGO national convention in Buffalo (\$600 cash award by the Schantz Organ Company)

Concerto for Positive Organ, Harpsichord, and Chamber Orchestra (Doblinger)—Anton Heiller, commissioned for the 1972 AGO national convention in Dallas

The Wrestler, a sacred opera—Samuel Adler, commissioned for the 1972 AGO national convention in Dallas

Parable for Organ, Op. 117—Vincent Persichetti, commissioned for the 1972 AGO national convention in Dallas

Missa Brevis—Ned Rorem, commissioned for the 1974 AGO national convention in Cleveland

New Work—William Albright, commissioned for the 1974 AGO national convention in Cleveland (underwritten by a grant from the Holtkamp Organ Co.)

A Vision of Daniel, chorus, brass, and percussion—Matthias Bamert, commissioned for the 1974 AGO national convention in Cleveland (underwritten by a grant from the Austin Organ Co.)

A New Work for Organ—Gunther Schuller, commissioned for the 1976 AGO national convention in Boston

A New Work for Organ and Percussion—William Albright, commissioned for the 1978 AGO national convention in Seattle

Two Commissioned Anthems—Charles Forsberg and Lloyd Ultan, commissioned for the 1980 national convention in Twin Cities

Work for Organ, Brass, and Percussion in Three Movements—Conrad Susa, commissioned for the 1980 national convention in Twin Cities (with sponsorship from the Holtkamp Organ Co.)

Celebration of God in Nature, organ—Robert Ward, commissioned for the 1980 national convention in Twin Cities

Concerto in E Major for Organ and Strings—Calvin Hampton, commissioned for the 1980 national convention in Twin Cities

Commissioned Work for Organ—Alberto Ginastera, commissioned for the 1980 national convention in Twin Cities

The following works were commissioned for the 1982 AGO national convention in Washington:

Homage to J.S. Bach—Stephen Douglas Burton

Symphony No. 6, Op. 118—Paul Creston

Views from Sunset Hill—Ned Rorem

The Point that Divides the Wind, organ and percussion—Barbara Kolb (with partial funding by the Holtkamp Organ Co.)

Cantos, organ—Edward Diemente

Resurrection, organ—Larry King

Te Deum Laudamus, choral—Gerald Near

The following works were commissioned for the 1984 AGO national convention in San Francisco:

Festival Te Deum, organ, chorus, congregation, brass, harp, and percussion (Gentry Publications)—Fred Bock (dedicated to the memory of Claire Coci)

The Lord's Prayer (Novello)—Thea Musgrave (dedicated to Harold Mueller, funding by the Vivian G. Crumney Benevolent Trust)

Lombard Street, Spatial Promenades for Organ and Four Percussionists—Henry Brant (dedicated to the San Francisco Symphony's organ)

Concerto for Organ and Orchestra (Theodore Presser)—McNeil Robinson (commissioned in association with Mrs. John Huston and dedicated to Marcel Dupré)

A Song After Sundown (Theodore Presser), organ and orchestra—David Raksin (dedicated to "Jo")

Pastoral Drone (Peters)—George Crumb

Pebble Beach Sojourn (Boosey & Hawkes), organ, brass, and percussion—Ron Nelson (dedicated to the San Francisco Chapter)

Souvenir, organ—John Cage (dedicated to Fred Tulan)

Homage to Varèse (Theodore Presser), organ, double timpani, and percussion—Howard Tircuit (dedicated to Leopold Stokowski)

Fantasia for Organ, Brass, Timpani, and Percussion (Theodore Presser)—Miklós Rózsa (dedicated to members of the American Guild of Organists)

The following works were commissioned for the 1986 AGO national convention in Detroit:

The Detroit Fanfares—James Hartway, Anthony Iannaccone, and Robert Sadin (through a grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts and the Arts Foundation of Michigan)

The Sure Foundation, choir, instruments, and organ—Gordon Young (dedicated to the Detroit AGO Chapter)

Introduction (Fanfare), Variations, and Fughetta on the Hymn Tune "Jena" ("Breslau")—Sir David Willcocks

Chorale Prelude: Give peace, O God—Vincent Persichetti (commissioned by the Ann Arbor Chapter in collaboration with the Detroit Chapter)

Three Organ Voluntaries—Virgil Thomson (commissioned in commemoration of the 90th anniversaries of the Guild and of the composer by the Detroit Chapter and the New Music Committee of the AGO with funds provided in part by the Special Projects Advisory Committee of the Seattle Chapter)

The following work was commissioned for the 1988 AGO national convention in Houston:

To Everything, anthem—Paul Cooper

The following works were commissioned for the 1990 AGO national convention in Boston:

Aspects of Glory, organ—Libby Larsen

Sonata 1990 (Theodore Presser)—McNeil Robinson

Invocation for Organ, Op. 122—David Edgar Walter (*published as part of the anthology *The Boston Organ Book*, 1990, E.C. Schirmer)

Diapason Fall—Matt Darriau*

Four Variations on Nettleton—Louise Munding*

Adagio—Nancy Plummer Faxon*

Four Versets and Canzona—James Woodman*

Postlude for Organ—Herbert Fromm*

Fantasy for Organ—Peter Schickele

Mass, chorus, soloists, organ, and percussion—Robert Sirota

The following works were commissioned for the 1992 AGO national convention in Atlanta:

Banners—Gerald Near (funded by all the deans and retired members of the Atlanta Chapter)

Behold, my servant whom I uphold—Robert A. Harris (dedicated to the American Guild of Organists)

The Spirit of the Lord, anthem—Judith L. Zaimont

A Blessing Song, choral—Dwight D. Andrews

Visions from Hildegard, Part One (choral)—Stephen Paulus (funded by the family of J. Erskine Love Jr.)

Offering of Love, organ—Leslie Adams

Voyage: A Fantasy for Organ—Dan Locklair (funding by Carl and Sally Gable in honor of Sarah L. Martin in recognition of her

unique leadership in the study of organ within the Atlanta area)

Flights of Fancy: Ballet for Organ—William Albright

The following works were commissioned for the 1994 AGO national convention in Dallas:

Three Alleluias (Edition Wilhelm Hansen/Chester Music)—Paul Cooper (the gift of John and Barbara Bradfield)

Song of Deborah—Adolphus Hailstork

Fantasia—Cindy McTee (the gift of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Redman)

Magnificat—Richard Proulx

Stelmini—Arturo Salinas

The Wise Women—Conrad Susa

For the 1996 Centennial commissions, please see the convention review published in the October 1996 issue.

The most ambitious composition project of the Guild in recent years has been in cooperation with the Holtkamp Organ Company under the supervision of the AGO New Music Committee. This biennial National Organ Composition Competition has attracted much attention, with each winning piece performed at the national convention and published by Hinshaw Music Inc. The chosen works in the AGO National Organ Composition Competitions are:

1983–84 *What seraphs are afoot*—Ingrid Arauco

1985–86 *Perceptions of Antiquity*—Timothy Kramer

1987–88 *Variations for Organ and Percussion*—Martin Matalon

1989–90 *A Practical Program for Monks*, cycle for tenor and organ—Frank Ferko

1991–92 *that line which is earth's shadow*—Ellen Ruth Harrison

1993–94 *Variations sur un vieux Noël*—Timothy J. Tikker

1995–96 *Spirituals for Palm Sunday*—Robert Greenlee and

Fantasia and Fugue on St. Theodolph—Aaron Hunt

In addition, the New Music Committee has conducted a choral composition competition with the winning anthems performed at all nine regional conventions. Originally, this competition was sponsored by the American Guild of Organists and the Moller Organ Company. It is now named the Competition for the AGO/ECS Publishing Award in Choral Composition, under the sponsorship of the Guild and the E.C. Schirmer Music Company. The winning anthems are:

1984–85 *Let There Be Light*—Gilbert Martin

1986–87 *Psalm VIII*—David Evan Thomas

1988–89 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*—James Gardner

1990–91 *The Peace Which Passeth Understanding*—James F. Hopkins

1992–93 *Welcome All Wonders*—James F. Hopkins

1994–95 *God's Grandeur*—Don Freund