

# OFFICIAL RULES GOVERNING THE 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, Calif. The AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions are made possible by a generous grant from Michael Quimby, president, Quimby Pipe Organs Inc.

	Chapter	Regional
<b>Eligibility</b>	A competitor must be born after December 31, 2000. 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
<b>Competition Dates</b>	The competition is to be held between February 11 and April 23, 2023.	The competition is to be held concurrent with the regional conventions in June/July 2023.
<b>Competitor Application</b>	Applications must be submitted online no later than January 15, 2023. Online applications are available at AGOhq.org.  A competitor may only enter in the AGO region of either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the school at which the competitor is currently enrolled or</li> <li>• the competitor's permanent legal residence or</li> <li>• the chapter of which the competitor has been a member for at least a year.</li> </ul>	
<b>Repertoire</b>	Competitors will perform the following four selections: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A prelude (a toccata or fantasia is acceptable) <b>and</b> fugue or two contrasting movements of a trio sonata by Bach. BWV 582 is acceptable; BWV 553–560 and 572 are not acceptable.</li> <li>2. Any one work, composed after 1750, of the competitor's choice. A movement of a larger work, such as a symphony, is acceptable.</li> <li>3. A contemporary piece of the competitor's choice published after 1950. When choosing this work, competitors should keep in mind the balance of the program.</li> <li>4. Hymn—choose one: HELMSLEY REGENT SQUARE REPTON</li> </ol> <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, improvised, or transposed 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"> <li>1. The same three repertoire selections from the chapter round.</li> <li>2. An additional work of the competitor's choice. When choosing this additional work, competitors should keep in mind the balance of the program.</li> <li>3. Hymn—choose one: EVENTIDE MONK'S GATE WESTMINSTER ABBEY</li> </ol> <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, improvised, or transposed arrangements may be used for the introduction and any subsequent verse, if desired.</p>
<b>Total Performance Time (three works + hymn)</b>	The total performance time is not to exceed 40 minutes.	The total performance time is not to exceed 50 minutes.
<b>Awards</b>	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 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.
<b>Official Registration Form and Official Rules</b>	Available from AGO Headquarters Email: competitions@agohq.org; Website: AGOhq.org Phone: 212-870-2310	NA
<b>Registration Fee</b>	\$50, payable online	NA

## Regional Competitions for Young Organists Committee

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In June 2022, AGO Headquarters will create and maintain an online list of 2023 chapter-hosted competitions. The full list will be available in October 2022.

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 held in conjunction with the regional convention.

## 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 2023). For information on chapters that plan to hold competitions, see the online list at [AGOhq.org](http://AGOhq.org).

### 2. Who may compete

Competitors must be born after December 31, 2000. Membership in the AGO is not required. Past first-place RCYO winners are ineligible to compete.

### 3. How to enter

Each competitor must submit the following items online at [AGOhq.org](http://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, 2023.

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

## 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 performances.

### 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 1925) 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 dean of the chapter, and the chapter 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.

### 8. Rules for regional-level competitions

Due to the planning constraints posed by the COVID pandemic, the rules for the 2023 regional-level competitions will be published separately.

## 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](http://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 AGO Headquarters, and must have regular access to email.

## 3. When to hold the chapter competition

The competition must be held between February 11 and April 23, 2023.

## 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 cannot be one that any of the competitors uses regularly.

At least three weeks 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 one alternate 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 four 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 according to the information submitted on the application.

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

The use of sequencers is allowed. Competitors may set pistons, but these may not be shared or seen by another competitor; competitors may not share memory levels.

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 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 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.

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. Competitors may not be present in the audience at any time.

## 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 at both the practice sessions and the competition event. The chapter is not responsible for any expenses incurred by the accompanying adult in attending the regional competition.

## 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, without indicating the respective players.
- 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. 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 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 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.
- f. The chapter is *not* responsible for any expenses incurred by the competitor in attending the chapter competition.

### **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, 2023.