

SUMMARY OF 2024 AGO CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS



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The following is a summary of current requirements for the Guild's certification program, along with the dates and fees for each exam. Detailed requirements for the 2024 exams were published in the July 2023 issue of TAO; they are also available as a PDF on the AGO website (AGOHq.org).

Joint certification with the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) is offered at the levels of the AGO Service Playing (SPC) and Colleague (CAGO) certificates. These requirements may also be found in the July 2023 TAO and on the website.

VINCENT CARR, AAGO, ChM
 Director, AGO Committee on Professional Certification

Who grades Service Playing and Colleague examinations?

Listed here are the members of the AGO Board of Examiners who grade the Service Playing and Colleague examinations under the supervision of the Committee on Professional Certification. Each recorded exam is graded independently by two members of the board. Additionally, the Board of Examiners serves as an advisory board to the Committee on Professional Certification on certain issues related to the certification program.

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Meredith E. Baker, FAGO, ChM | David Heller, AAGO | Jonathan Riss, FAGO, ChM |
| Dean W. Billmeyer, FAGO | Eileen Hunt, AAGO | Glenn L. Rodgers, AAGO |
| Gwen Blumenschein, AAGO | Robert Kardasz, FAGO | M. Jonathan Ryan, FAGO, ChM |
| Vincent Carr, AAGO, ChM | Marilyn J. Keiser, FAGO, ChM | Andrew Scanlon, FAGO |
| Don Cook, AAGO | Joyce Shupe Kull, FAGO, ChM | John C. Schmidt, FAGO |
| Frank L. Crosio, FAGO | † Ann Labounsky, FAGO, ChM | Sibyl K. Sharp, FAGO |
| † Lee de Mets, FAGO | Denise A. Lanning, FAGO | * David C. Shuler, FAGO |
| David Enlow, FAGO | * André Lash, FAGO | † Thomas P. Smith, AAGO |
| * Alfred V. Fedak, FAGO, ChM | David McCarthy, FAGO, ChM | * Eva Sze, FAGO |
| Bonnie L. Goodliffe, FAGO | † John J. Miller, FAGO | Maxine R. Thévenot, ARCCO |
| Kenneth J. Grinnell Jr., FAGO, ChM | Sue Mitchell-Wallace, FAGO | Kathleen Thomerson, FAGO, ChM |
| * Gregory Gyllsdorff, FAGO, ChM | Frank Morana, FAGO, FRCCO | John C. Walker, FAGO |
| Jonathan B. Hall, FAGO, ChM | Cynthia Pock, AAGO | Carol Weitner, AAGO |
| Sarah C. Harr, FAGO | Deke Polifka, AAGO | Todd R. Wilson, FAGO, ChM |

* Member of the Professional Certification Committee
 † Examiner for joint certification with NPM

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(If assistance is needed with this chart, please contact the certification program administrator using contact information above.)

	SERVICE PLAYING	COLLEAGUE	ASSOCIATE	FELLOW	CHOIR MASTER
FEES	\$175 *Student rate \$125	\$200 / \$150 *Student rate \$150 / \$125	\$350 / \$250 *Student rate \$275 / \$225	\$350 / \$250 *Student rate \$275 / \$225	\$350 / \$250 *Student rate \$275 / \$225
Surcharge for nonmembers of the AGO: \$115. *Candidates must be age 30 or younger with proof of valid student ID.					
JUDGING	recorded—local organ	recorded—local organ	on-site judges—exam center	on-site judges—exam center	on-site judges—exam center
EXAM DATES	Oct. 1 through Mar. 31	May 17 and Nov. 15, 2024	June 6 and 7, 2024	June 6 and 7, 2024	June 5, 2024
DEADLINES	at least 30 days prior to requested exam date (up to Feb. 1, 2024)	Mar. 15 for May 17 exam Sept. 15 for Nov. 15 exam	Apr. 1, 2024	Apr. 1, 2024	Apr. 1, 2024
LITERATURE	3 individual selections from 3 general lists	choose 1 of 4 selections in each of 3 lists	choose 4 pieces 1 from each of 4 lists	choose 4 pieces 1 from each of 4 lists	rehearse and direct choir in performance of 3 given selections (changes each year)
TRANSPOSITION	1 from hymn booklet (chosen in advance) not more than M2; no play-through; not written out	passage not more than M2; some preparation time	passage not more than M2; play through once	passage not more than M3; no play-through	none
HYMNS	2 from hymn booklet—3 stanzas with changes	2 from hymn booklet—3 stanzas with changes	1 hymn (in print U.S.), introduction, 3 stanzas, with bridge	none	1 from hymn booklet
ACCOMPANIMENT	1 of 6 listed anthems; 1 vocal solo; 1 psalm accompaniment from booklet (all to be prepared in advance)	1 choral selection and 1 vocal solo (both to be prepared in advance)	accompany from figured bass (at sight)	arrange for organ and play a piano accompaniment of vocal score (at sight)	accompany choir in rehearsal (optional)
SIGHT-READING	passage on 3 staves with minimal pedal	passage on 3 staves in trio texture	longer passage in open score using G and F clefs	(a) organ piece (2–3 pages) with manual changes; (b) passage in open score with C clefs	4-part hymn setting
HARMONIZATION	none	simple hymn tune, chant, or folk melody; some preparation time	passage in 4 parts—portions of treble melody and of unfigured bass are given	none	(a) melody; (b) progressions with specific cadences
IMPROVISATION	none	3 choices, all including modulation; some preparation time	variation on ground bass or hymn or chant prelude	piece approximately 2 minutes in ABA form, theme A is given	none
EAR TESTS	none	none	melodic line dictation, 2-part dictation, and aural perception	4-part dictation; 2-voice contrapuntal dictation	2-part dictation
WRITTEN	none	none	extensive	extensive	extensive