

The AGO Committee on New Music is pleased to announce the

2026 AGO/ECS PUBLISHING AWARD IN CHORAL COMPOSITION

Twentieth Biennial Competition



AWARD

- \$2,000 commission for a new work for SATB choir and organ
- Performance at the 2026 AGO National Convention in St. Louis, Missouri
- Publication by ECS Publishing Group

COMMISSION

Composers will propose a commission for a work for SATB choir and organ, utilizing all or part of the text of Proverbs 3:13–18 (NIV). The piece should be between five and eight minutes in length, and the organ must play a significant role. There are no restrictions with regard to compositional style. The submitted proposal should reflect the composer's compositional strength and interests. The work should be of the highest quality and suitable for concert and liturgical performance by moderate to advanced choirs.

ELIGIBILITY

Composers of all ages are welcome to enter, and the applicant need not be a member of the American Guild of Organists. Previous winners of the AGO/ECS Publishing Award in Choral Composition may not enter. Prior organ composition experience is not necessary and will not hinder consideration of an application.

APPLICATION MATERIALS AND DEADLINE

A completed online application has four parts

(see agohq.org/agoecs-publishing-award-in-choral-composition):

1. An application form.
2. A proposal for commission — not longer than 1,000 words.
The proposal should explain how the proposed commission would be useful to the AGO membership as well as provide insight into your creative thinking as a composer.
3. A one-page résumé.
4. Two sample scores, at least one of which must be less than three years old. One score must demonstrate command of writing for choir. The other must demonstrate command of writing for a keyboard instrument. You must also submit a corresponding sound file with each score.

The application will open on March 1, 2024, and all application materials must be submitted online on or before July 1, 2024. The winner of the commission will be announced on or before September 30, 2024.

JUDGING AND COMMISSIONING GUIDELINES

A panel of professional composers and performers will evaluate all applications, selecting as a winner a composer who holds the highest potential for producing a lasting contribution to the choral repertoire, as well as one that is meaningful to the AGO membership. An advance payment of \$1,000 will be awarded at the time of commissioning. The remaining \$1,000 will be awarded upon receipt of an autographed copy of the completed score, due no later than June 30, 2025. If the commission is not completed on time, the commission advance must be repaid. Arrangements for publication of the winning composition will be made between the composer and ECS Publishing Group.

For more information, contact AGO Headquarters or visit the AGO website.

2026 AGO/ECS Publishing Award in Choral Composition

American Guild of Organists • AGOhq.org

Tel: 212-870-2310 • Fax: 212-870-2163 • Email: competitions@agohq.org

Proverbs 3:13–18 (NIV)

Blessed are those who find wisdom,
those who gain understanding,
for she is more profitable than silver
and yields better returns than gold.
She is more precious than rubies;
nothing you desire can compare with her.
Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.
Her ways are pleasant ways,
and all her paths are peace.
She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her;
those who hold her fast will be blessed.