

Greater Columbia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists YOUNG ORGANIST COMPETITION 2022

Rules of the Competition

Dates

The Young Organist Competition 2022 will be held on March 11-12, 2022 in Columbia, S.C.

Eligibility

The competition is open to students currently enrolled in Grades 8-12 who are studying organ. Membership in AGO is not required. Previous first place winners are ineligible to compete. No more than three finalists will be chosen for the final round.

Repertoire Requirements

1. A major work by J.S. Bach of at least 5 minutes duration.
2. A contrasting piece composed after 1800.
3. A hymn chosen from the list on page 2.

The pieces must be original compositions for pipe organ. Original scores of the repertoire must be used; no photocopies are allowed. Total performance time for the two solos and the hymn should not exceed 30 minutes. Memorization is not required. A page turner will be supplied.

How to enter

1. Complete the application form for **The Young Organist Competition 2022** as found on the Greater Columbia AGO website. www.columbiago.org
2. Provide a biography and digital headshot of the performer.
3. Mail 1) the completed application form, 2) your biography, and 3) a check for the \$35 entry fee made out to Greater Columbia AGO Chapter to the address below by **February 1, 2022**.
4. Submit a digital headshot and a video recording of your performance to franceswebb@sc.rr.com. Recordings should be submitted via YouTube link (private video only) in which the performer is seen. **The recording must have no speaking on it, and each piece must be a continuous, unedited performance. The performer must be visible. The recording must be private.**

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Deadlines

The deadline for submission of the application, the biography, and the \$35 entry fee (**check made payable to the Greater Columbia AGO Chapter**), the digital headshot and the virtual performance is **February 1, 2022**. The semi-final round will be judged by a committee of organists from the Greater Columbia AGO Chapter. Students will be notified of audition results by **February 8, 2022**.

Prizes

Prizes are as follows: first-place \$1500; second-place \$1000; third-place \$750; hymn-playing \$500; Bach performance award \$300. The winner of the first-place award will be expected to come to Columbia during the next AGO program year to perform a solo recital. A write-up of the event and a picture of the first-place winner will be submitted to the AGO magazine, *The American Organist*. A competitor will be disqualified for failure to abide by the rules. Disqualification will be determined by the Committee on *The Young Organist Competition 2022*. The judges shall reserve the right to withhold any or all prizes. Winners will be announced immediately following the competition on March 12, 2022.

Hymn Requirements

Please choose a hymn from the following list. These can be found in a standard hymnal.

- “Earth and All Stars” (**Earth and All Stars**)
- “The God of Abraham Praise” (**Leoni**) / **Yigdal**)
- “The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Has Ended” (**St. Clement**)

Play an introduction and three verses. You may choose which three verses you will play.

1. Introduction
2. First verse as written
3. Second verse with right hand playing solo melody on one manual with correct harmony in left hand on second manual and pedal
4. Third verse with alternate harmonization

Things to keep in mind:

1. The importance of the hymn text.
2. How the text requires musical phrasing.
3. Length of the final note and how to breathe between stanzas.
4. Registration and tempo appropriate for text, acoustic, and for leading the congregation to sing well.

Provide three copies of the hymn for the judges, marked with the verses which you are playing.