

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

ST. PETERSBURG CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

The American Guild of Organists, St. Petersburg Chapter, in order to assist and promote study of the organ as a classical and/or ecclesiastical instrument, is offering scholarship support for qualified students to begin or continue private lessons. Awarding of the scholarship will be governed by the following guidelines:

CANDIDATES

1. Will be 25 years of age or under at the time of the audition.
2. Will have attained a reasonable level of piano proficiency. (See audition requirements.)
3. Will be able to demonstrate a serious interest in organ study, and an appropriate willingness to dedicate the necessary time and energy to this end. A minimum of 8-10 hours of practice per week is expected.

THE SCHOLARSHIP

1. Will be in the amount of \$1,000, which will cover the cost of 20 lessons of one hour each. All other costs and materials will be the responsibility of the student.
2. Students under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at their lessons.
3. May be applied only to study with qualified instructors as approved by the Guild.
4. Will be paid by the Guild directly to the instructor. The instructor will be expected to bill the Guild each month, along with documentation of lessons given, and should submit a brief progress report after the first 10 lessons and at the end of the 20 lessons.
5. Will be withdrawn should the student fail to attend lessons regularly, or to maintain the expected practice allotment.

PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION OF WINNER(S)

1. Interested candidates must submit an application to the Guild. This application should include a statement of intent, a description of the candidate's previous musical experience, and a plan as to where and how the candidate intends to practice. At least one letter of recommendation from someone familiar with the candidate's musical background and abilities should accompany the proposal. The application should be no longer than one typed page.
2. Candidates whose applications have been accepted by the Guild will be auditioned at the piano. Candidates may play part of the audition at the organ at their discretion.
3. Audition requirements:
 - a. One of the Two-Part Inventions of J.S. Bach
 - b. A hymn in four voices, assigned one week prior to the audition
 - c. A piece of the candidate's choice, at the level of early Mozart or Haydn
 - d. A brief passage of sight-reading, at a level similar to all of the above OR play a simple improvisation on the assigned hymn.
4. Depending on the resources of the scholarship fund, and the determination of qualified candidates by the Guild, one or more scholarships may be offered in any year.
5. Application materials should be submitted electronically to Michelle Rego (mregreatini@msn.com), with the subject line: AGO Scholarship Competition. Any questions about the scholarship may also be directed to Ms. Rego.