THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

ST. PETERSBURG CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

The St. Petersburg Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, 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

- Will be a minor or young adult at the time of the audition.
- Will have attained a reasonable level of piano proficiency. (See audition requirements below.)
- 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. An average of 1 (one) hour per day or 7 (seven) hours of practice per week is expected.

THE SCHOLARSHIP

- Will be in the amount of $1000, which will cover the cost of 20 (twenty) 1-hour lessons at $50/each. All other costs and materials will be the responsibility of the student.
- Students under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at the lessons.
- May be applied only to study with qualified instructors who are members of the AGO and approved by the board.
- Will be paid by the Chapter directly to the instructor. The instructor will be expected to bill the Chapter periodically, documenting the lessons given. The instructor should submit a brief progress report to the chapter after the 10th lesson and at the end of the 20th lesson.
- Will include a membership in the St. Petersburg Chapter of the AGO
- Will be withdrawn should the student fail to attend lessons regularly, or to maintain the expected practice requirements.

PROCEDURE FOR SELECTING WINNER(S)

- Interested candidates must submit an application to the Guild by the end of March. Auditions will be held in April. This application should include a statement of intent, a description of the candidate's previous musical experience, and a plan for where and how each 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.
- Candidates whose applications have been accepted by the Guild will be auditioned at the piano.
- Audition suggestions:
    1. One of the Two-Part Inventions of J.S. Bach
    2. A hymn in four voices, assigned one week prior to the audition
    3. A piece of the candidate's choice, at the level of early Mozart or Haydn
    4. A brief passage of sight-reading, at a level similar to all of the above OR play a simple improvisation on the assigned hymn
- Depending on the resources of the scholarship fund and the determination of qualified candidates by the Chapter, one or more scholarships may be offered in any year.
- Application materials should be submitted electronically to Robert Todd, Scholarship Chair, at agostpete@gmail.com with the subject line: AGO Scholarship Competition. Any questions about the scholarship may also be directed to Mr. Todd.

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