

The AGO Committee on New Music
is pleased to announce the

2028 AGO/ MARILYN MASON AWARD IN ORGAN COMPOSITION



Award

- \$3,000 commission for a new solo organ work
- Performance at the 2028 AGO National Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Publication by H.T. FitzSimons, a Fred Bock Music Company

Commission

Composers will propose a commission for a new solo organ work. The piece should be five to eight minutes in length and adaptable to organs built in a broad range of styles.

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/Holtkamp, AGO, or AGO/Marilyn Mason Award in Organ Composition may not enter. Prior organ composition experience is not necessary and will not hinder consideration of an application.

Application Materials

A completed online application has three parts (see agohq.org/competitions):

1. An application form.
2. A proposal for a commission—not longer than 1,000 words. The proposal should explain how the piece would be useful or of interest to the AGO membership, and it should provide insight into your creative thinking as a composer.
3. Two or three sample scores, with all identifying information (such as the composer's name) redacted for the purpose of an anonymous adjudication, at least one of which must be less than three years old. One score must demonstrate command of writing for a keyboard instrument, in a solo or ensemble context. The second may be any example that showcases the composer's best work. Composers are encouraged, but not required, to submit a third work scored for one or more instruments. They must also submit a corresponding audio-only file with each score.

Deadline

The application will open on March 1, 2026, and all application materials must be submitted online on or before July 1, 2026. The winner of the commission will be announced on or before September 30, 2026.

Judging and Commissioning Guidelines

A panel of professional composers and performers will evaluate all applications in strict anonymity. The winning proposal will be one that has the highest potential for producing a lasting contribution to the organ repertoire, as well as one that is meaningful to the AGO membership. An advance payment of \$1,500 will be awarded at the time of commissioning. The remaining \$1,500 will be awarded upon receipt of an autographed copy of the completed score, due no later than June 30, 2027. 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 H.T. FitzSimons, a Fred Bock Music Company.

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

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American Guild of Organists • AGOHq.org

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