



2028

Ronald G. Pogorzelski and Lester D. Yankee Annual Competition

Award

- \$10,000 commission for the composition of two works:
 1. a concert work for solo organ (approximately 7 minutes);
 2. a shorter work for solo organ (approximately 3 minutes) of moderate difficulty, based on the hymn tune LEONI and intended for liturgical use.
- Attendance at the premiere of both pieces at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.
- Printing of the shorter work in an issue of *The American Organist*.

Eligibility

Composers of all ages and nationalities are welcome to enter, and the applicant need not be a member of the American Guild of Organists. There are no restrictions with regard to compositional style. Prior organ composition experience is not required, but applicants must provide evidence of experience with the organ and knowledge of its repertoire.

Application Procedure

Applications can be submitted at AGOhq.org (click the Education tab, then click Competitions), where you will also find further details regarding the competition. The application will include the following:

1. A commission proposal for both compositions that will give the Committee on New Music an idea of certain components, such as processes, themes, inspirations, compositional techniques, and textures. The committee invites composers to provide as much detail as possible to help them imagine the pieces being envisioned.
2. Two sample scores; one must be less than three years old, and one must be for the organ. Applicants who have not composed for the organ may substitute a keyboard work. Composers should use the score submission as an opportunity to demonstrate proficiency with the organ. Composers must submit links to audio-only recordings to accompany their scores.

Deadlines

Application materials must be submitted online on or before August 31, 2026. The winner of the commission will be announced before October 31, 2026.

Judging and Commissioning Guidelines

Under the guidance of the AGO Committee on New Music, a panel of esteemed professional composers and performers will adjudicate the applications in strict anonymity and will select the composer with the highest potential for producing lasting contributions to the organ repertoire, as well as ones that are meaningful to the AGO membership. An autographed copy of the completed score will be due no later than August 31, 2027. If the composition is not completed on time, the commission must be repaid. The winner will be provided transportation and lodging to attend the premiere of the completed works on the Ronald G. Pogorzelski and Lester D. Yankee Memorial Organ at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Additional Details

The completed compositions must be solo works for a tracker organ, playable on the Ronald G. Pogorzelski and Lester D. Yankee Memorial Organ (see the organ specifications on the AGO website). The compositions should be of the highest quality and must be suitable for performance on both mechanical- and nonmechanical-action organs, and adaptable to organs built in a broad range of styles (including quality electronic instruments).

AGO Committee on New Music

Bruce E. Neswick, FRSCM, FAGO, Director
Elisa W. Bickers, FAGO
Ilona Kubiacyk-Adler
Dan Locklair

Peggy Haas Howell, Councillor for Competitions & New Music (ex officio)