



THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

announces the

2025-26 AGO STUDENT COMMISSIONING PROJECT

Grants of \$1,000 awarded to four collaborative composer-organist pairs
for the composition and performance of new works for the organ

ELIGIBILITY

All applicants—composers and organists—must be enrolled as full- or part-time students at an accredited U.S. college, university, or conservatory. There are no restrictions with regard to compositional style, and the composer need not be an organist. Membership in the AGO is not required. In addition to creative vision, applications will be judged on evidence of a sound working relationship between the composer and organist. Preference will be given to composers and organists who have not received a commissioning grant in a prior year.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Each composer-organist pair will submit one joint application. Application materials must be submitted online at agohq.org/document-center. Each completed application will include the following:

1. A sample score and recording of the composer's best work in any genre.
2. A short statement of not more than one page by the composer, describing the proposed work and how working with an organist will facilitate its creation.
3. A short statement of not more than one page by the organist, describing how their specific partnership will enhance the compositional process and the performance.
4. A sample recording by the organist, no longer than twelve minutes in length, demonstrating his or her performance abilities. Repertoire performed may be in any style.
5. A brief statement of support from a professor who agrees to mentor the student pair during the course of the project.

DEADLINES

Application materials must be received at AGO Headquarters on or before October 15, 2025. Grant winners will be announced before November 15, 2025. The completed score must be approved by the AGO Committee on New Music on or before April 1, 2026, and a video performance of the work must be provided by June 1, 2026, for posting on the AGO website.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- Four grants of \$1,000 will be awarded to four composer-organist pairs. Each award will be shared evenly between the composer and organist (\$500 each). Half the amount will be presented upon selection for the award; the other half will be presented to both parties upon successful execution of the premiere.
- Grant winners are required to attend a Zoom meeting with the AGO's Committee on New Music in winter 2026.
- The spirit of this competition comes from the creative collaboration between the composer and organist over the course of the 2025–26 academic year. An existing work is ineligible for submission.
- The project embraces new creative approaches in music-making and encourages applicants to think outside of the box. It is expected that each composer and organist will already be familiar with their partner's goals and skills, and that they will both embrace the challenges and opportunities of working as a duo.
- The work must be six to ten minutes in length.
- The work must be received by the AGO Committee on New Music by April 1, 2026. The organist must provide a video recording of a performance of the work by June 1, 2026, for posting on the AGO website. In the event of failure to submit the score or perform the work by the above deadlines, the awarded funds must be repaid in full.
- Information regarding award-winners, performances, and completed compositions will be posted at AGOhq.org, in the New Music section. Awarded composers will be given the option of posting their full compositions for free download from the website, or sample pages alongside contact information for interested parties to purchase scores directly from the composer.

AGO Committee on New Music

Alexander Meszler, *Director*

Elisa Bickers, FAGO • Anne Laver • Bruce Neswick, FRSCM, FAGO