

**THE ARTHUR POISTER SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION
IN ORGAN PLAYING
RULES FOR THE PRELIMINARY COMPETITION
2015**

1. Organists who have not reached their 30th birthday before April 11, 2015 are eligible to compete. Previous first place competition winners are not eligible.
2. Contestants are to choose three sharply contrasting compositions for organ solo consisting of:
 - a. a major work by J.S. Bach (i.e. a Prelude/Toccatina/Fantasia and Fugue, Concerto, or a Trio Sonata)
 - b. a work by a romantic composer
 - c. a work in an idiom characteristic of the 20th or 21st century (for example, we regard Duruflé as a Romantic composer, and some earlier Dupré)NOTE: one of the selections in category 'b' or 'c' must be in a quiet lyrical style.
Total performance time shall not exceed 30 minutes.
3. Performances of the chosen compositions are to be submitted on a stereo CD-R. Be advised that a poor quality recording may make it impossible to accurately evaluate your performance. Personal recorders are suspect and poor microphoning is detrimental. The recording is to be continuous; that is, there is to be no editing or splicing within each composition or movement. For purposes of this competition, partitas or sets of variations are considered to be a single movement. The recording may be stopped only between movements or compositions. There must be no speaking voice on the recording. **The CD-R should be labeled only with the names of the compositions, in the order of the performance.** Nothing shall have been recorded before December 1, 2014. Use of any electronic or computer means *for preparation of the playing on the recording* (including, but not limited to, MIDI, sequencers, computer programs, etc.) is absolutely prohibited.
4. In addition to the recording, the following items must be submitted:
 - a. a completed application.
 - b. the Confirmation of Recorded Performance, with signatures. *One of the signatories should have been present during the recording. This might even be your page turner, though we'd prefer one of the people listed on the form. Adjust the form as needed.*
 - c. a proposed recital program of approximately 60 minutes which the contestant would be prepared to play in Autumn 2015 in Syracuse. *Your name should not be on the program.*
 - d. a photocopy of a birth certificate, driver's license, or passport. (giving date of birth)
 - e. a stoplist of the instrument used for the recording with the builder's name and year, without reference to location or opus number of the organ.
 - f. the non-refundable entry fee of \$50.00, in the form of a personal check or money order (US banks only), payable to "Syracuse AGO, Poister Fund". Entries are to be received by February 7, 2015. Mail to: Will Headlee, 1650 James Street, Syracuse, New York 13203-2816, 315-471-8451. Recordings received without items listed above will not be judged.
5. Submitted recordings will be judged by the Poister Competition Committee. Up to six finalists will be chosen to compete on April 11, 2015. Judges at the preliminary and final competitions will not be informed of the contestants' identities until judging is completed.
6. Preliminary contestants are asked to provide one copy of any organ score to which the preliminary judges might not have easy access. *Be careful about this! (Ask Mr. Headlee.)*
7. Failure to abide by any of the above rules will result in disqualification.