

THE ARTHUR POISTER SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION IN ORGAN PLAYING RULES FOR THE 2026 FINAL COMPETITION

1. Finalists must notify the Competition Coordinator of their willingness to compete by March 5, 2026. If any finalist declines to participate, the next highest ranking competitor may be eligible.
2. Finalists will compete on Friday, March 27, 2026 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in downtown Syracuse, New York. A specification of the Quimby organ is available on the Syracuse AGO website: www.syracuseago.org. Each finalist will play the same compositions presented in the preliminary competition. Total time at the bench, excluding initial piston preparation, shall not exceed 30 minutes. The finalist will determine the order of the pieces.
3. Each finalist will receive two hours of practice time on Thursday, March 26, 2026 and two hours on Friday, March 27, 2026. No one may be present with the finalist during the practice times. Upon request, a member of the competition committee will be available to play passages to allow the contestant to assess balance and registration from the audience. Personal recorders are allowed during practice.
4. Finalists may have the assistance of a page turner, provided by the Competition Committee, but not an assistant for registration.
5. The order in which the contestants perform will be determined by drawing numbers upon their arrival in Syracuse.
6. Finalists are allowed to play from photocopies or reduced scores, but must demonstrate possession of a published score for all material under copyright. The competition committee may request additional copies of hard-to-find scores for judges (these may be published scores or fair use photocopies).
7. The following prizes will be awarded by the at the completion of the finals:
 - First Prize: \$5000, funded by the Syracuse Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and a recital engagement in Syracuse during the 2026-2027 season.
 - Second Prize: \$3000, funded by the Arthur Poister Endowment Fund of Syracuse University.
 - Third Prize: \$1500, funded by the Syracuse Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.
 - Will O. Headlee Audience Prize: \$500, funded by the Syracuse Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.
8. Finalists will be hidden from the three judges during the competition.
9. All finalists must provide a short biography and a color headshot of portrait/reproduction quality in JPG format, for publicity purposes by March 5, 2026.
10. The Syracuse AGO chapter will reserve and pay for lodging on Thursday and Friday night for each competitor. Travel expenses incurred by finalists, to a maximum of \$350, will be reimbursed upon submittal of receipts. The Syracuse Chapter will not assume responsibility for any additional expenses incurred by the finalists.
11. Failure to abide by any of these rules will result in the disqualification of the competitor.