

**THE ARTHUR POISTER SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION IN ORGAN
PLAYING
RULES FOR THE 2026 PRELIMINARY COMPETITION**

1. Organists who have not reached their 30th birthday before March 27, 2026, are eligible to compete. Previous first place competition winners are not eligible.
2. Contestants are to choose three sharply contrasting compositions for solo organ 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 composed between 1800 and 1950
 - c. a work composed after 1950.

NOTE: one of the selections must be in a quiet lyrical style. Every effort should be made to select contrasting pieces for categories 'b' and 'c' in order to create a varied program.
Total performance time shall not exceed 30 minutes.
3. Performances of the chosen compositions are to be submitted as email attachments or links to download via dropbox or google drive to the competition email address: poistercompetition@gmail.com. All files should be in mp3 format. Be advised that a poor quality recording may make it impossible to accurately evaluate your performance. 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; preludes and fugues or trio sonata movements can be recorded separately. The recording may be stopped only between movements or compositions. There must be no speaking voice on the recording. **Audio files should not list the contestant name anywhere on the file name or file information.** They should be labeled as follows: ComposerLastName.Title.mvtX (movement number if applicable). Nothing shall have been recorded before November 1, 2025. Use of any electronic or computer means *for preparation of the playing on the recording* (including, but not limited to, MIDI, computer programs, etc.) is absolutely prohibited.
4. In addition to the recording, all contestants must complete an application form (available online at: <https://forms.gle/u78vM8g2FPkxqZF17>) as well as the following, emailed as attachments:
 - a. pdf or jpg of a birth certificate, driver's license, or passport. (giving date of birth)
 - b. pdf scanned copies of any organ score to which the preliminary judges might not have easy access. When in doubt, send a score.

Entries must be submitted (preferably in one email) to poistercompetition@gmail.com by 11:59pm February 1, 2026. The email subject line should read: "CONTESTANT FIRST AND LAST NAME, 2026 Poister Competition Materials." Emails must include all the accompanying attachments and links in order to be considered.
5. In addition to the materials, a non-refundable entry fee of \$60.00 should be made via the paypal link on the syracusego.org website no later than 11:59 p.m. on February 1, 2026.
6. Submitted recordings will be judged by the Poister Competition Committee. Three finalists will be chosen to compete on March 27, 2026. Competitors will be contacted by February 27, 2026 as to whether or not they have been selected as a finalist.
7. Failure to abide by any of the above rules will result in disqualification.