

2025 NANM New Century Competition for Organ

1. Contestant Rules Eligibility

1.1.1. The age limit is 21 to 40 years old between August 1, 2024, and July 31, 2025.

Participants must upload their valid State or Federal ID in the secure, encrypted application form.

1.1.2. A first-place winner at the national level is ineligible to compete during the next competition for the same instrument category.

1.1.3. Full-time, public-school music teachers and college faculty as defined in academia (e.g. lecturers, adjunct, tenure-track, tenured professors) are ineligible to compete.

1.1.4. Contestants who, before the commencement of the competition or at any time during the competition, are under an exclusive contract with a management or recording agency are ineligible to compete.

2. Application Process

2.1. Complete the online application available at <https://www.nanm.org/scholarship>. Application deadline February 28, 2025.

2.2. Select only one piece for each category. The only repertoire requirement is adherence to the categories listed. Commercially published, self-published, and manuscript music are equally permissible. Original compositions are not allowed. For examples, please see the resource list available on the Scholarship Competition website.

2.2.1. Category 1 — Bach Prelude/Fugue or 2 contrasting movements of a trio sonata

2.2.2. Category 2 — Any composition by a composer born after 1860

2.2.3. Category 3 — Any composition by a Black Composer

2.3. Submit the non-refundable \$50 application fee.

2.4. The application and application fee are due **by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time (PT) February 28, 2025.**

2.5. Incomplete applications are not accepted.

3. Competition Rules

3.1.1. Contestants must supply the Scholarship Chair with a clean digital copy of all pieces performed. Each piece should be a separate file. Ensure that each file is named including the piece and your own name.

3.1.2. A contestant's performance must not exceed 30 minutes, including transitions between pieces.

3.1.3. Contestants must compete in "concert attire"

3.1.4. Contestants must supply the National Scholarship Chair with a 'head and shoulders' photograph, color and high resolution (i.e., a jpg of 1Mbyte).

4. Competition Procedures

4.1. Logistics

4.1.1 Contestants are to submit a digital video of a live recording of their performance of competition repertoire. It is recommended that contestants use the best equipment available, and that the recordings are of “CD Quality”, and supplied as native WAV files or encoded as FLAC or ALAC (Apple Lossless). Contestants are strongly advised not to use MP3, which can mask the finer points of your performance.

Recordings must be submitted via **Google Drive**. Only electronic copies will be accepted. The file names for each track must include the candidate’s first and last name. Along with the audio files, candidates must submit a document listing the date and place of recording for each piece, accompanied by the four specification(s) of the organ(s) used in the recording. These specifications will give the basic information regarding the number of manuals or keyboards, the number of speaking stops and the complement of couplers and capture action provided. The recording should include only the specified program, which must be complete performances of the works without any editing, and with no speaking or any other content that might divulge the identity of the candidate.

4.1.2 This video should be a continuous unedited view of the performer’s keyboards and pedals. All submissions should not exceed 30 minutes of performance repertoire.

4.1.3 The video must be submitted to the National Competition Chair by **11:59pm (Pacific Time) on Friday, March 14, 2025. No late submissions will be accepted.**

4.2. Submission Review

4.2.1. All submissions will be reviewed and adjudicated by a National Committee of recognized organ professionals.

4.2.2. The National Committee will contain 1 representative of the 5 regions of the National Association. These members will be selected by the Regional Scholarship Chairs.

4.2.3. The National Committee will select 3-5 applicants to perform in the National Competition at the National Convention in Detroit, MI.

4.3. Results

4.3.1. The National Competition Chair will notify the applicants by April 15, 2025, if they will be invited to participate in the National Competition.

4.3.2 All invited contestants are required to cover the expense of travel to Detroit, Mi. The National Board will provide 2 nights stay for each participating contestant.

4.3.3 The first-place winner may be invited to perform at a possible convention event the following day.

4.4. Rules for Adjudicators

- 4.4.1. Three professional organists will serve as judges for the competition. (An alternate fourth judge will be available in case of emergency).
- 4.4.2. The Scholarship Chair, in consultation with the Scholarship Committee, will select adjudicators. Members of the review committee are not eligible to serve as a judge at the national competition.
- 4.4.3. The maximum score for each category is 30 points. Judges will use a scoring process that includes, but not limited to, artistic communication with the work, technical virtuosity and mastery, program structure and flow-including according to stated time allotment, level of difficulty of the work choices, and nuanced control of the instrument.
 - 4.4.3.1. The raw data for each adjudicator is added together to determine the winner.
- 4.4.4. Adjudicators are to write comments about the performance on the adjudication forms for each contestant.
 - 4.4.4.1. Comments are designed to help the contestant and not be punitive.
- 4.4.5. Adjudicators must sign their name on their adjudication forms.
- 4.4.6. Adjudicators will convene following the performance of the last contestant to review the scores and discuss the final results.
 - 4.4.6.1. In the case of a tie vote, the adjudicators must discuss then make the final decision.
- 4.4.7. Only the approved adjudication form may be used in its unaltered form.

4.5. Awards

- 4.5.1. The winners are announced following the adjudicators' decision.
- 4.5.2. First place winner would receive the George Williams Memorial award of \$7,000.
- 4.5.3. Second Place winner would receive the Joyce Johnson award of \$3500.
- 4.5.4. The remaining contestants would receive \$1,000.
- 4.5.5. These awards will be presented at the end of the competition.

Questions? Contact Dr. Walter McLean (walter.mclean@scholarshipchair.nanm.org or wrmcl@yahoo.com).