

ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS
2015 NATIONAL ORGAN PLAYING COMPETITION * CONCOURS NATIONAL D'ORGUE 2015
Winnipeg, Manitoba, July 2015

COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The competition is open to Canadian organists, and non-Canadian organists studying toward a degree or diploma in Canada who are members of the RCCO or joint members with the AGO, who were born on or after January 1, 1985. Previous first prize winners are not eligible.
2. Each applicant must submit to the Competition's Committee no later than March 1, 2015:
 - i. completed application form
 - ii. proof of age (photocopies are acceptable)
 - iii. recording on compact disc of the Preliminary Round as described below. A statement verifying that no editing has taken place, signed by the applicant and a knowledgeable witness, must be submitted with the compact disc.
 - iv. Entry fee of \$125.00 (non-refundable) payable to the Royal Canadian College of Organists.
 - v. Repertoire for all three rounds
3. The competition consists of three rounds:

A. THE PRELIMINARY ROUND

This round will be judged by means of a recording on compact disc by three adjudicators appointed by the Competition Committee. By March 1st, 2015, each applicant must submit a recording of no longer than 30 minutes consisting of:

- i. One of the chorale preludes from *Clavierübung III* by Johann Sebastian Bach
- ii. Two contrasting selections from *Premier livre d'orgue* by Louis Marchand.
- iii. One additional work of the applicant's choice in contrasting style.

The repertoire must be written on the label of the CD, but not the applicant's name.

B. THE SEMIFINAL ROUND

From the preliminary recordings submitted, the panel of adjudicators will select six competitors to play in the Semifinal Round. The Semifinal Round will be held on Saturday, July 4th at 1:00 PM and at 7:00 PM in Young United Church, Winnipeg. The organ is a two-manual tracker organ built by Létourneau.

The repertoire will be:

- i. The two chorale preludes by J. S. Bach: *Allein Gott in der Hoh'* BWV 662 and BWV 664.
- ii. A work of the competitor's own choice, composed between 1500 and 1800 by someone other than Bach;
- iii. Sonata VI by Felix Mendelssohn
- iv. A piece or pieces by a Canadian composer chosen by the competitor. A photocopy of the score should be submitted with the application.

Competitors are free to perform these works in any order they wish.

Total performance time should be between 35 and 45 minutes, including the pauses between movements and works.

C. THE FINAL ROUND

From those who play in the Semifinal Round, the judges will select three competitors to play in the Final Round. The Final Round will be held on Tuesday, July 7th at 2:00 PM in Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Winnipeg. The organ is a three-manual electro-pneumatic.

The repertoire will be:

- i. J. S. Bach – *Toccat, Adagio & Fugue in C (BWV 564)*
- ii. A commissioned Canadian work, [not longer than 5 minutes] available from the National Office upon registration for the competition. [this will not be released to the competitor until the complete registration including fee has been received by the RCCO National Office. No public performance of the work may be played until the work is performed at the competition. Marnie Giesbrecht maintains exclusive rights of performance until December 2015]
- iii. An additional work, or works, of the competitor's own choice to present an interesting, complete, and appropriate program within the allotted time. A photocopy of the score(s) selected should be submitted with the application.

Competitors are free to perform these works in any order desired. Total performance time should be between 35 and 45 minutes, including the pauses between movements and works.

4. Competitors must submit the repertoire for all rounds with their application.

No composition may be repeated in any round, nor changed after May 1, 2015.

Competitors may be assisted by a page turner only who will be provided by the local centre. The order in which the competitors perform will be determined by random draw prior to the Semifinal and Final Rounds. The identity of the competitors will not be revealed to the jurors until all jury decisions have been made.

5. Each competitor will receive at least three and one half hours practice time for the Semifinal Round, and four and one half hours practice time for the Final Round on the competition instruments. Additional practice time on other instruments will be provided.

Each competitor will receive a warm up time of 30 minutes shortly before the session in which he/she participates.

6. The convention registration fee will be waived for all competitors who reach the Semifinal Round. Billeting will be available upon request.

7. Prizes:

First Place: Godfrey Hewitt Memorial Prize: \$5,000;

Second Place: Létourneau Prize: \$2,500

Third Place: Muriel Gidley Stafford Prize for \$1,000.

Prizes for the 2015 Competition will be presented on Wednesday, July 8th at 8:00 PM in conjunction with the CIOC sponsored recital and in order to receive the prize the competitor is required to be present.

APPLICATION:

An application form in pdf format is available [here](#). The completed application form, including the pieces chosen for items B ii and iv and C iii must be sent to:

RCCO National Organ Playing Competition
RCCO National Office
204 St. George Street, Suite 202
Toronto, Ontario, M5R 2N5
Attention: William Wright, Competition Committee Chair .

For further information, contact the National Office or Competition Committee Chair William Wright at <williamhwmwright@bell.net>

JUDGES:

A panel of three judges will judge the preliminary round. A separate panel of five judges will judge the Semi-Finals and Finals. They are appointed by the Competition Committee Chair in consultation with the committee. No judge may have a student entering the competition.

Juries at each level of the competition will consider the following elements when making assessments:

- level of difficulty of the works chosen;
- program structure and flow;
- technical mastery;
- artistic communication of the works.

Each adjudicator will independently rank the players in order starting with first ranked number 1; ranks will be tallied and the lowest scores will proceed to the next round of the competition. Discussion may take place after the jury receives the ranked list and a second ranking process may be undertaken to clarify the position of each competitor.

Judges' decisions are final.