

**ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS
LE COLLÈGE ROYAL CANADIEN DES ORGANISTES
2017 NATIONAL ORGAN PLAYING COMPETITION
CONCOURS NATIONAL D'ORGUE 2017
Montréal, Québec**

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 AGO members who hold dual membership with the RCCO), who were born on or after January 1, 1987. Previous first prize winners are not eligible.

2. Each applicant must submit to the National Office no later than March 10, 2017:

- i. A completed application form
- ii. Proof of age (photocopies are acceptable)
- iii. A recording of the repertoire of the Preliminary Round in the format described below

Recordings must consist of complete takes, with no editing or splicing within a work. A statement verifying that no editing has taken place, signed by the applicant and a knowledgeable witness, must be submitted with the application.

- iv. Entry fee of CA\$100 (non-refundable) payable to the Royal Canadian College of Organists
- v. A listing of the applicant's chosen repertoire for all three rounds

3. Prizes:

- First Place: Godfrey Hewitt Memorial Prize: \$5,000
- Second Place: Paul Murray Prize: \$2,500
- Third Place: Muriel Gidley Stafford Prize: \$1,000

Prizes for the 2017 Competition will be presented on the evening of Sunday, July 2, 2017 at the Opening Festival Concert at 8pm at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal. In order to receive the prize the competitor is required to be present.

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4. The competition consists of three rounds:

A. THE PRELIMINARY ROUND

The Preliminary Round will be judged by means of a recording by a jury of three appointed by the Competition Committee. **By March 10, 2017**, each applicant must submit a recording of the following works:

- 1) J.S. Bach: ONE of the “Leipzig Chorales,” BWV 651-668 inclusive
- 2) TWO contrasted movements *by the same composer* from the French Classical organ school, INCLUDING one *tierce en taille* OR *cromorne en taille* movement
- 3) ONE free choice work written after 1850 requiring a well-developed virtuoso technique to perform

The total time, including pauses between works, should be between 25 and 30 mins. The jury may, if it wishes, elect to penalize candidates whose performances fall outside of this durational timeframe.

Instructions for submitting the recording:

- Applicants should send THREE identical copies of the recording on CD to the National Office of the RCCO, **postmarked no later than March 10, 2017**
 - *The repertoire must be written on the labels of each of the CDs, but not the applicant’s name*

B. THE SEMIFINAL ROUND

From the Preliminary Round recordings submitted, the jury will select a maximum of six competitors to play in the Semifinal Round.

The Semifinal Round will be held on Thursday June 29, 2017 between 2 and 10pm at St. Matthias’ Anglican Church, Montreal.

The organ was built in 1973 by Karl Wilhelm, and consists of 3 manuals and pedals with mechanical action. The specification is available here:

<http://www.musiqueorguequebec.ca/orgues/quebec/smatthiasw.html>

The repertoire will be:

- 1) J.S. Bach: Fantasia and Fugue in G minor, BWV 542
- 2) J.P. Sweelinck: EITHER: Variations on “Est-ce Mars,” OR “Mein junges Leben hat ein End,” OR “Unter den Linden grüne.”
- 3) A work or works composed after 1750. Competitors are encouraged to programme Romantic and contemporary works as far as the instrument will allow, while remaining true to its aesthetic and registration capabilities.

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

The total time, including pauses between works, should be between 35 and 40 mins. The jury may, if it wishes, elect to penalize candidates whose performances fall outside of this durational timeframe.

C. THE FINAL ROUND

From those who play in the Semifinal Round, the jury will select three competitors to play in the Final Round.

The Final Round will be held on Saturday July 1, 2017 at l'Église Très-Saint-Nom-de-Jésus in Montreal.

The gallery organ was built by Casavant Frères in 1915 and restored in 1999, and consists of 4 manuals and pedals with electro-pneumatic action. The specification is available here: <http://www.musiqueorguequebec.ca/orgues/quebec/tsnomjm.html>

The repertoire will be:

- 1) César Franck: ONE of *Trois Chorals pour Grand Orgue*
- 2) Rachel Laurin: *Epilogue*, Op. 50, Wayne Leupold Editions (2014) WL700008
- 3) An additional work or works (any period, any style) to make a contrasted programme

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

The total time, including pauses between works, should be between 40 and 45 mins. The jury may, if it wishes, elect to penalize candidates whose performances fall outside of this durational timeframe.

5. Additional regulations:

- Applicants must submit details of their repertoire for all rounds with their application
- No composition may be repeated in any round, nor changed after May 1, 2017
- Competitors may be assisted by a page turner only, who will be provided by the local Centre: no assistance with registrations is permitted in any round
- The order in which the competitors perform will be determined by random draw prior to the Semifinal and Final Rounds
- The names of the competitors will not be revealed to the jurors until all jury decisions have been made
- The convention registration fee will be waived for all competitors who reach the Semifinal Round
- Billeting will be available upon request

6. Practice time:

Each competitor will receive at least 3½ hours of practice time for the Semifinal Round, and 4½ hours of 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 s/he participates.

APPLICATION

An application form in pdf format is available [here](#).

The completed application form, plus all supporting documents and materials, must be sent (postmarked not later than March 10, 2017) to:

RCCO National Organ Playing Competition
RCCO National Office
204 St. George Street, Suite 202
Toronto, Ontario M5R 2N5

ANONYMITY OF COMPETITORS

All rounds of the competition will be conducted anonymously. Questions about the competition or its requirements should be addressed to the National Office of the RCCO, and they will be forwarded anonymously to the Competition Committee: info@rcco.ca tel. 416.929.6400

JUDGES

A panel of three will judge the preliminary round. A separate jury of five will judge the Semi-Finals and Finals. Jury members are appointed by the Competition Committee Chair in consultation with the committee. No jury member may have students in the competition.

The jury at each level of the competition will consider the following elements when making assessments (in no specific order):

- Artistic communication of the works
- Technical mastery
- Programme structure and flow (including duration, according to the stated requirements)
- Level of difficulty of the works chosen

Each jury member will independently rank the players in order, starting with his or her first choice ranked number 1. Rank numbers will be tallied and those with 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. The order of competitors in the Final Round will be randomized so that the jury is unaware of which competitor was which in the Semifinal round. However, after the initial deliberations of the Final Round, if the jury's decision is unclear, it may refer back to the Semifinal Round for clarification. The jury's decisions are final.