

**ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS  
2019 NATIONAL ORGAN PLAYING COMPETITION  
CONCOURS NATIONAL D'ORGUE 2019  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, 2019**

**COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. The competition is open to Canadian organists, permanent residents and non-Canadian organists studying toward a degree or diploma in Canada, who are members of the RCCO and were born on or after July 8, 1988. Previous first prize winners are not eligible.
2. Each applicant must submit to the National Office no later than February 1, 2019.
  - i. A completed application form
  - ii. Proof of age and citizenship, permanent residency or student status (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 and must be made within a year of application. 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 2019 Competition will be presented at an event during the Halifax Organ Festival. **In order to receive the prize, the competitor is required to be present.**

4. The competition consists of three rounds. A full description of the three rounds appears below on pages 2 and 3.

## 5. Additional regulations:

- Competitors will be visible to the jury and audience during Semifinal and Final Rounds.
- The names of the competitors will not be revealed to the jurors until all jury decisions have been made
- 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, 2019
- Competitors may be assisted by a page turner only (to 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 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.

### A. THE PRELIMINARY ROUND

The Preliminary Round will be judged by means of a recording by a jury of three members, appointed by the Competition Committee. **By February 1, 2019**, each applicant should submit a recording of a solo program which must include:

- 1) A minimum of 3 contrasting musical styles
- 2) Movement III: *Allegro* from Sonata No. 6, BWV 530 by J.S. Bach

**The total duration of this programme must be between 25 and 30 mins.**

(The jury may elect to penalize candidates whose performances fall outside of this time frame.)

#### **Instructions for submitting the recording:**

Digital MP3 files must be received by the RCCO National Office no later than February 1, 2019.

*Applicants must not identify themselves in any way **on the recording.***

*Applications must include a written copy of the program.*

## **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.

**NB: The Semifinal Round will be held on Friday, July 5, 2019 at St. George's Round Church, Halifax, NS.**

Specifications for the organ are found [here](#) and a link to the church's website [here](#).

Repertoire:

- 1) Competitors will choose a program of at least three contrasting works.
- 2) The program must include J.S. Bach: Prelude and Fugue in D Major, BWV 532.
- 3) The program duration must be between 35 and 40 minutes, including pauses between works. (The jury may elect to penalize candidates whose performances fall outside of this time frame.)
- 4) Competitors are free to perform their program in any order they wish.

## **C. THE FINAL ROUND**

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

**NB: The Final Round will be held on Sunday, July 7, 2019 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax, NS.**

Specifications for the organ are found [here](#) and a link to the church's website [here](#).

Repertoire:

- 1) Competitors will choose a program of at least three contrasting works.
- 2) **The program must include the commissioned work by Peter Togni.**
- 3) The program duration must be between 40 and 45 minutes, including pauses between works. (The jury may elect to penalize candidates whose performances fall outside of this time frame.)
- 4) Competitors are free to perform these works in any order they wish.

## **APPLICATION**

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

The completed application form, plus all supporting documents and materials, must be sent (postmarked not later than February 1, 2019) 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 Semifinal and Final rounds. 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; discussion may take place after the chair of the jury receives the ranked list, and a second ranking process may be undertaken to clarify the position of each competitor. 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.