

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER, AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
STUDY GRANT GUIDELINES – Spring 2012

Purpose: to encourage current and prospective organ students in the study of the organ in order to increase their proficiency and to further advance the appreciation of the organ and organ music in the Los Angeles area.

1. Grants are for the purpose of encouraging those who commit to study organ on a one-on-one basis with a qualified organ teacher for at least a three to four month period. The teacher must be a member of the LA Chapter of the American Guild of Organists or a member of the organ faculty at any accredited college or university in which the applicant is enrolled.
2. Grants will be awarded on the basis of audition, and preference will be given in the following order to:
 - ◆ Current piano students with no previous organ experience who desire to explore organ study.
 - ◆ Current organ students who will not have passed their 23rd birthday as of September 1, 2012 and are at levels 1-5 according to the guidelines listed in part 6 below.
 - ◆ Current organ students of any age over 23 or above level 5 according to the guidelines listed in part 6 below.
3. The number and amount of grants will be determined by the amount of funds available, the number of applicants, and the ability of the applicant as demonstrated at an audition. The decision of the judges is final.
4. Grants will be awarded for the purpose of offsetting a portion of the cost of private organ lessons. The actual cost of the lessons will be determined by an agreement between the student and the teacher.
5. Grants awards will be between \$300.00 and \$500.00 each.
 - The award will be based on a cost of \$50.00 per hour lesson.
 - Recipients must agree to take a minimum number of hours of lessons based on the amount of the award. (Example: a recipient receiving \$300.00 must complete six one hour lessons or twelve 30 minute lessons.)
 - Recipients must begin lessons no later than March 1, 2012 and complete them no later than June 30, 2012. Failure to meet this requirement could result in forfeiture of the award.
 - ◆ The student and instructor must come to an agreement as to whether the lesson time is for four 30 minute lessons each month, or two or four 60 minute lessons each month. Lesson length longer than one hour is not acceptable. Other lesson frequency (e.g., 45 minute lessons) may be negotiated with the teacher and with the approval of the study grant committee.
 - ◆ Should an instructor's fee be more than the amount of the award (i.e., \$50.00 per hour), it is the responsibility of the recipient to make up the difference.
 - ◆ Half of the award will be paid to the teacher following the first lesson qualifying under the award program. The remainder of the award will be paid to the teacher at the end of the required number of hours of instruction upon certification by the private teacher that lessons have been completed.
 - ◆ In addition to the monetary award, recipients will be given a one year membership in the American Guild of Organists and the Los Angeles Chapter of the AGO for the fiscal year June 2012 – May 2013.
6. Audition requirements
 - ◆ Piano students with no prior organ experience must prepare and play two short pieces in contrasting styles on the piano. A student must be at least at level 2 of piano repertoire as outlined by the guidelines for the Music Teachers Association of California.
 - ◆ Current organ students must prepare and play two pieces in contrasting style on the organ. The pieces must meet appropriate levels of study as indicated by the "Progressive Repertoire Requirements" guidelines published by the San Diego Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. This document may be found at:
http://agosd.org/assets/files/Progressive_Repertoire_Requirements.pdf

In addition, applicants who are at level 4 or above must also prepare and play a hymn on the organ as outlined in the San Diego guidelines.

 - Total time of all the pieces played for the audition is limited to 15 minutes. During the audition, the applicant may be requested to wait a few minutes between playing each piece in order for the judges to write comments.
 - ◆ An applicant may apply for an award each year.
 - Awards will be made only for two consecutive years at any one level of study. After two years, the applicant must move to the next level in order to receive an award.
 - An applicant may only apply one time as a beginning organ student with no previous organ experience and audition by playing piano repertoire. Subsequently, the applicant must be at an appropriate level of organ study.
 - ◆ All applicants must provide three copies of each of the pieces to be played. Measure numbers should be indicated on all copies including the applicant's own copy.
 - ◆ All applicants will receive written comments from the adjudicators of the audition.