



# First Presbyterian Church

## Music Series

300 West Wayne Street  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802  
260.426.7421

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### 2024 National Organ Playing Competition

#### Required Works:

- A. One of Johann Sebastian Bach's Six Sonatas, BWV 525-530
- B. A work in the Romantic idiom
- C. A work by a composer born no earlier than 1917

#### Rules Governing the 2024 Preliminary Competition

1. Contestants are eligible if they are 35 years of age or younger on April 20, 2024.
2. Preliminary contestants are required to submit an mp3 format recorded performance of all three works. In the Preliminary Competition, contestants may use their own judgement regarding the repeats in the Trio Sonata and work "B" is to be a single movement only; but it may be a movement from a multi-movement work. Compositions employing additional instruments will not be accepted.
3. The first 50 recorded entries which are received between January 15, and January 31, and which meet all of the requirements specified in the stated rules, will be accepted as entries in the 2024 competition. Recordings received without items 5a through 5f listed below will not be judged. **All submitted recordings must consist of performances recorded no earlier than November 1, 2023.** All submissions will be acknowledged via email upon receipt.
4. Performances are to be submitted as mp3 format recordings and sent in via email. This can be an email attachment or a link to a dropbox account but no links or referrals to other websites. The recording of each composition must be continuous, that is, it must be without editing or splicing of any kind. It is permissible to stop the recording between movements of a multi-movement piece. The recording must contain no speaking by anyone. Please note that poor quality recordings make it difficult to judge the playing and all electronic engineering is strictly prohibited. **Entries are to be submitted electronically to Director of Music Ministries and Organist, Brent Neuenschwander at [bneuenschwander@firstpresfortwayne.org](mailto:bneuenschwander@firstpresfortwayne.org).**

**"Enriching our FAITH through the ARTS"**

Brent L. Neuenschwander, Director of Music Ministries and Organist  
Kathryn A. Miller, Assistant Organist

5. In addition to the recording, the following must be attached as PDFs with the submission email:

- a. A Contestant's Application form providing all requested information and signatures.
- b. A completed and properly signed Confirmation of Recorded Performance form.
- c. A listing of works comprising a proposed recital program of no less than 60 minutes and not more than 75 minutes playing time, which the contestant would be prepared to play in a Music Series Recital at First Presbyterian Church on a Sunday in November 2024, in the event he or she wins the competition. Organ works for both the competition and the recital will be subject to the approval of the First Presbyterian Church Music Committee and Music Staff.
- d. A professional head shot of the contestant suitable for publicity purposes.
- e. A biographical sketch describing musical training, a list of public performances, contest participation, positions held, etc.
- f. A seventy-five dollar (\$75.00) entrance fee, paid via the electronic payment option on the church website, [firstpresfortwayne.org](http://firstpresfortwayne.org) under the National Organ Playing Competition tab. All entrance fees are due by January 31, 2024.
- g. A stop list of the organ used for the recording including the builder's name and year. Be sure that the institution name is excluded from the stop list.

6. Recordings entered in the Preliminary Competition will be judged by a panel of musicians different from the panel of judges for the final round. Three finalists will be chosen to compete at the First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, April 20, 2024, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Travel expenses will be covered up to \$200 and every effort will be made to provide housing with church members or local organ supporters. There will be four prizes – First prize will receive \$3,000 and a recital on a Sunday in November 2024. Second prize will receive \$1,500 and third prize will receive \$750. The fourth prize will be the audience prize in the amount of \$500. Another panel of musicians will judge the Final Competition. Judges at the Preliminary and Final Competition will not be informed of the contestant's identity until the judging has been completed.

7. Preliminary contestants will be notified as to whether or not they have been selected as one of the three finalists or two alternates immediately following the Preliminary Competition. If any preliminary contestant who is selected as a finalist is unavailable to compete on April 20, 2024, or if any preliminary contestant who is selected as a finalist chooses for any reason not to participate in the Final Competition, the next-highest-ranking contestant will be eligible to compete in the Finals.

8. Preliminary contestants will be required to provide a copy of any organ score to which the Preliminary judges do not have easy access.