



First Presbyterian Church

Music Series

300 West Wayne Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802
260.426.7421

2024 National Organ Playing Competition

Rules governing the 2024 National Organ Playing Competition

1. The finalists who are chosen in the Preliminary Competition will be notified by email immediately following the Preliminary Competition that they are eligible to participate in the Final Competition if they can meet the following additional requirements:
 - a. Finalists must be available to compete in the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Wayne on Saturday, April 20, 2024 beginning at 1:00 p.m. Confirmation must be made no later than March 15, 2024.
 - b. Finalists must agree to complete advance practice and registration of Final Competition works on the Aeolian-Skinner organ in the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Wayne in advance of Saturday, April 20, 2024.
 - c. Finalists must be available to play the winner's recital at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Wayne on a Sunday in November 2024.
 - d. The first-place winner is required to arrive in Fort Wayne no later than midnight, two days prior to the announced recital date, in order to devote one full day plus the day of recital to prepare the recital.
2. Finalists will be required to play the three works listed on their application, all of which were recorded for the Preliminary Round. Trio Sonatas must be played with all repeats with deference to rule number 4.
3. Finalists will be given 5 hours of practice time on the Sanctuary organ split between Thursday the 18th and Friday the 19th. Additional practice time will be scheduled on the Chapel organ and other downtown instruments. On the morning of the Contest Day, April 20th, each finalist will have forty-five minutes available on the Sanctuary organ for last-minute preparation. During the competition itself, each contestant will be allowed forty-five minutes total time for setting pistons and playing. Any contestant who continues to play after the forty-five minute period has expired will be asked to stop playing.
4. If a finalist cannot register and perform the three contest pieces in a maximum of forty-five minutes, reasonable "cuts" must be pre-determined. Finalists are required to provide three copies of each of their contest pieces, excluding the Bach piece, for the use of the judges; and any "cuts" must be marked in the judges' copies. Finalists must, however, be prepared to play the sections marked as "cuts" if requested by the judges.

"Enriching our FAITH through the ARTS"

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

5. Finalists may have the assistance of one other person in the Sanctuary during rehearsal periods to help in determining proper balance in registrations, as many recitalists normally do. However, this person cannot be anyone directly related to the judging or administration of the Preliminary or Final Competition. On the day of the competition, finalists may have a page turner; but this person cannot be the finalist's present or former organ teacher. If you would like, the competition committee can provide a page turner for you. No one other than the finalist and page turner will be allowed in the organ loft during the contestant's performance. The duties of the page turner are to turn pages only and not help with registration in any way.

6. All contestants are required to remain on the grounds of First Presbyterian Church until the winners have been announced. If the judges' point scores indicate a tie for first or second place, the judges will be obliged to decide how they wish to break the tie. Sometimes the judges elect to invite two contestants to repeat a performance of one of their pieces; and it is important that the contestants be available. If at all possible, staying to play in church the next morning will be a part of the competition weekend. (Please talk with Brent about this when making travel arrangements.) Following the 11am service, contestants will be provided transportation to the local airport.

7. The first-place winner will be awarded a cash prize of \$3000.00, which will be mailed immediately following the competition.

8. The second-place winner will be awarded a cash prize of \$1500.00, which will be mailed immediately following the competition.

9. The third-prize winner will be awarded a cash prize of \$750.00, which will be mailed immediately following the competition.

10. The audience prize winner will be awarded a cash prize of \$500.00, which will be mailed immediately following the competition.

11. All finalists will be sent checks following the April 20, 2024 competition to cover travel expenses up to \$200 with well documented receipts. In addition, housing will be provided with either church members or local organ enthusiasts, unless a contestant wishes to arrange hotel accommodations at his/her own expenses.

12. The first-place winner will be requested to prepare program notes for the recital program.

13. The first-place winner of the National Organ Playing Competition will be ineligible to enter this contest in the future.