

EXAMINATION DATES

Service Playing Test: October 1 of the current year through April 30 of the following year.

ELIGIBILITY

Members in good standing of both AGO and NPM are eligible for the Service Playing Test.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Write to the American Guild of Organists National Headquarters (address below), after annual membership dues are paid in both NPM and AGO, for application forms and a manual of procedure. *Specify on the completed form your request for dual certification.* The completed application may be submitted between September 1 of the current year and March 1 of the following year. Tests are to be taken at any AGO Chapter where a suitable pipe organ and recording equipment are available. The tests are recorded and the tapes are sent to AGO National Headquarters for evaluation.

EXAMINATION FEE: \$60

All checks should be sent to AGO National Headquarters and be made payable to the American Guild of Organists. Fees should be sent with completed application forms. Requests for cancellation of any examination must be received by Headquarters one full month prior to the examination date, in order for a refund to be issued. In the case of all examinations, there is a non-refundable portion (\$15) of the fee. The same AGO fee applies for re-examination.

CERTIFICATES

Service Playing Certificates will be issued to those who obtain at least 50% of the points for each item within a section and 70% of the total maximum marks within each section.

PREPARATION

A *Service Playing Test Study Guide* (\$20) may be obtained from AGO National Headquarters.

EXAMINATION WORK SHEETS

Candidates for the Service Playing Test will receive judges' comments gratis.

EXAMINATIONS FOR THE VISUALLY CHALLENGED

Examinations for the visually challenged are available. Requests for such examinations must be received in writing by February 1.

Association Addresses

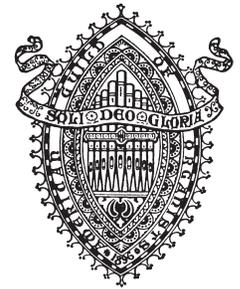
American Guild of Organists

National Headquarters
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E-Mail: info@agohq.org

National Association of Pastoral Musicians

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NPM/AGO Service Playing Certificate for Roman Catholic Organists



This revised American Guild of Organists service playing exam allows members of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) to choose specific examples typical of the musical demands in Roman Catholic parishes. The candidate's exam is taped and sent to be graded by both NPM and AGO representatives.

Candidates who successfully complete the exam will be awarded joint certification from NPM and AGO. Exam requirements and procedures are described in this brochure.

Certificates will be issued to those who obtain at least 50% of the points for each item within a section, and 70% of the total maximum marks within each section.

NPM/AGO Service Playing Requirements

The Service Playing Test shall be recorded on cassette tape at a site with suitable pipe organ and recording equipment, then sent to the American Guild of Organists (AGO) National Headquarters for evaluation by two national examiners. A proctor will be appointed, and will be the only person in the room with the candidate when the test is given. (If a singer is employed for question S4, he or she will be in the room only at that time.)

AGO members who are also members in good standing of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) may obtain Service Playing Certification in both organizations by earning a passing grade on this test. If a candidate intends to pursue dual certification, this must be indicated on the candidate's initial application to AGO Headquarters. In addition, NPM candidates should be careful to prepare the items on the test which are specifically required for dual certification; these are indicated below. The complete tests of candidates seeking dual NPM/AGO certification will be graded by examiners from both organizations. There is no additional fee for this service.

S1. (20 points) The candidate will prepare and perform one work from each of Groups A, B, and C.

GROUP A

Any choral prelude from Bach's *Orgelbüchlein*.

Any fugue by Bach, including the fugues from the so-called "Eight Little Preludes and Fugues," sometimes attributed to Bach.

GROUP B

A single movement from any work by Mendelssohn, other than the hymn-like opening sections of Sonatas 5 and 6.

One of the *Ten Trios*, Op. 49, by Rheinberger (any edition).

Any movement with indicated pedal from Vierne's *Vingt-quatre Pièces en style libre* (Durand).

Any piece with pedal (Nos. 3–16) from *Sixteen Chorales (Le Tombeau de Titelouze)* by Dupré (H. W. Gray; reprinted by Warner Bros. Music).

GROUP C

Any one of Schroeder's *Sechs Orgel-choräle* (Schott).

Any movement from Langlais's *Organ Book* (Elkan-Vogel).

Any one of Bloch's *Six Preludes* (G. Schirmer).

Any piece from *Saint Augustine's Organbook* by Gerald Near (Paraclete AE 86).

Candidates seeking NPM certification should either choose a work from the Dupré collection as their Group B piece, or a work from the Near collection as their Group C piece. (Or they may choose both.)

S2. (10 points) The candidate will select one *hymn* from the revised *Examination Hymn Booklet*, which may be requested from AGO National Headquarters. He or she will transpose the hymn into two keys, not more than a major second in either direction. The keys will be chosen (and announced on the recording) by the proctor. The transposed versions are not to be written out in advance, and the hymn is not to be played in the original key first.

S3. (20 points) The candidate will select *two* hymns from the revised *Examination Hymn Booklet*, different from the hymn chosen for question S2 above. He or she will play two stanzas of these hymns as if accompanying a large enthusiastic congregation. Some contrast in the presentation of the two stanzas is expected, as is sensitivity to the text. NPM candidates are required to select, as one of their hymns, "We Have Been Told" from the 1997 Service-Playing Supplement to the revised *Examination Hymn Booklet* (available from AGO Headquarters).

S4. (10 points) The candidate will select one of three psalm accompaniments in the 1997 Service-Playing Supplement to the revised *Examination Hymn Booklet*, and will play two verses of the psalm as though it were being sung in a worship service. Depending on the candidate's choice of psalm, a singer *may* be required in order to render a sat-

isfactory performance on the test. (The aforementioned 1997 Service-Playing Supplement indicates which psalms require a singer.) If a singer is needed, the candidate may engage (at the candidate's own expense) any singer of his or her choice. As an acceptable alternative, the candidate may play *and* sing the psalm. For NPM certification candidates, the required selection is the Gelineau setting of Psalm 33/34, "Taste and See the Goodness."

S5. (20 points) The candidate will select two of the following anthems, and will play the accompaniment as though accompanying a competent choir.

Matthias—As Truly As God Is Our Father (Oxford)

Haydn—Awake the Harp (from the *Creation*) (G. Schirmer 50293660).

Mendelssohn—How Lovely Are the Messengers (from *St. Paul*) (E. C. Schirmer No. 1134).

Howells—My Eyes for Beauty Pine (Oxford 0-19-350112-0). Play accompaniments throughout, including the passage in cue-sized notes.

Near—Adam Lay Ybounden, No. 1 of *Two Carols* (Aureole/Morning Star No. AE145)

S6. (20 points) The candidate will sight-read a short passage of music. The candidate's grade will be based on his or her ability to maintain the indicated tempo with accuracy of notes and rhythm. (The sight-reading question and information regarding examination procedures will be sent from AGO Headquarters to the chapter dean prior to the test date.)