



Greater Bridgeport Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

John Polo, Program Director/Treasurer

M. Louise Miller – Paul E. Knox Scholarship Competition

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www.greaterbridgeportago.org

M. Louise Miller – Paul E. Knox
Scholarship Competition
\$4,000 Award for 2023

February 2024

Re: 2024 \$4,000 Annual M. Louise Miller – Paul E. Knox Scholarship Competition – Deadline June 1, 2024

Dear Organ Chair and Fellow Organ Instructors,

I would like to introduce to you and your organ students the Greater Bridgeport Chapter of the AGO's annual M. Louise Miller – Paul E. Knox Scholarship Competition for 2024.

A \$4,000* scholarship will be awarded in July 2024 to an undergraduate student pursuing or continuing study in fall 2024 at an American college, conservatory, or university, leading toward a career in organ performance and church music. The application process includes writing a short essay and submitting a recording of two standard organ pieces (Bach and Romantic). The application can be done online, the deadline is June 1, 2024. The same materials attached are also available at www.greaterbridgeportago.org

Winners also get the opportunity to perform in a chapter recital program in Connecticut (additional \$1,500 award). Where possible they get a chance to tour the area including the organs at Yale University and historic New Haven. In all cases I, along with fellow judges, encourage winners to be creative with their programming and communicate their choices with our audiences.

Previous winners of the scholarship include Ryan Giraldi, Anne Maria Lim, Elena Baquerizo, David von Behren, Katelyn Emerson, Hannah Engwall, Christopher Howerter, Jeremy Paul Jelinek, Katherine Jolliff, Colin Macknight, Amanda Mole, Nathan Pennington, Scott Montgomery, Kevin Neel, Mary Pan, Susan Beisner Powell, Frederick Teardo, and Alden Wright.

Please pass along this competition opportunity to your students. If there are any questions, they can be directed to me at lmillerpknoxscholarship@gmail.com.

*I am also very pleased to inform you that your organ students can use exactly the same application process, deliverables and timeline with Greenville, South Carolina Chapter of the AGO's newly established (Robert & Nancy) Powell Scholarship Competition 2024. I am the Program Director for each scholarship having lived in Connecticut first and now living in Greenville, our chapter modelled the Powell Scholarship based on previous success. Robert Powell is the living composer of hundreds of service, organ and choral published composition. Each chapter has its own judges, but we wanted to this be more incentive for organ students to win up to \$8,000 submitting to both competitions. That application is a link <https://greenvilleago.org/scholarship.shtm>

Kind regards

John Polo

John Polo, Chair/Treasurer

Judges: Galen Tate (Saint Thomas More RC Church, Darien), Dr. Stephen Rapp (The Church of the Epiphany, New York City), Dr. Alice Caldwell (Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Fairfield)



The Greater Bridgeport, Connecticut Chapter ~ American Guild of Organists

~ The M. Louise Miller-Paul E. Knox Scholarship Competition Application for 2024 ~

The M. Louise Miller Scholarship Fund was begun in 1998 to honor Dr. M. Louise Miller's 85th birthday. Dr. Miller (1914-2008) was a founding member of The Bridgeport, Connecticut Chapter AGO in 1948 and served the area with much distinction regarding organ performance, choral training and directing, church music, concerts including sacred oratorios, teaching and promoting the organ and its repertoire, and community service. In 2015, with the passing of fellow colleague Dr. Paul E. Knox (1930-2015), collaborator with Ms. Miller and known for the same professional level of excellence, the chapter renamed the scholarship fund to include both leaders. It is the Chapter's desire to continue Dr. Miller's and Dr. Knox's contributions and ideals by supporting a young person who wishes to pursue the organ as a career.

Eligibility

The M. Louise Miller –Paul E. Knox Scholarship Award is open to any undergraduate student who is, or will be, studying organ at a college, conservatory, or university within the USA.

Required Application Materials

Digital recordings can be provided via a private YouTube link, along with all other applications documents in standard email. Our goal is to make this submission paperless.

1. **Digital recording:** Prepare a high-quality digital recording (video preferred but not required) on a pipe organ to include the following repertoire in the order listed. Separate movements may be recorded in separate takes; however, there is to be no splicing or editing within movements or compositions. The Bach selection and the Romantic/20th century selection may be recorded on different instruments (please provide specifications for both instruments). Total playing time must not exceed 30 minutes. YouTube links are fine and can be made UNLISTED, so that the .urls can be shared with various judges but not searchable on the Internet.

Repertoire Guidelines: One complete piece (or movement) from each category:

- a. **Baroque** ~ any Prelude/Toccata/Fantasia and its appropriate Fugue by J. S. Bach (including the "8 Little Preludes and Fugues" often attributed to Bach) or two movements (slow and fast) from one of the six Trio Sonatas by Bach.
- b. **Romantic/Contemporary** ~ one complete movement (or one complete shorter piece) from symphonies, sonatas, chorale-based pieces, etc., by composers whose works are representative of the 19th- and early 20th-century idiom.
- c. **Hymn** ~ An introduction and two (2) verses of a hymn of your choosing, as you would play it to accompany congregational singing. Photocopy of the hymn as printed. Do not include more than two verses in your submitted recording.

2. **Organ Information Sheet:** Please include the location, stop list, number of manuals and stops/ranks, and builder of the pipe organ used for your recording.
3. **Confirmation of Recorded Performance:** Complete the Confirmation of Recorded Performance Page. It must be signed by the performer and a witness to the performance. If two different organs are used, complete a separate form for both recording sessions. This document with signatures can be scanned and sent with other required materials via email.
4. **Written Essay:** Write a brief essay (100-300 words) in which you address the following topic:

The Miller-Knox Scholarship was inaugurated in 1998 in part to address a decline in the number of undergraduate organ majors in the United States by helping to support the college-level studies of promising young organists. Upon completion of your studies, how do you envision yourself contributing to the vocation of organist and the community of organists? Include in this essay a brief description of your current participation in this field.
5. **References:** Two reference letters/emails from current or recent organ teachers. If not part of the original filing then can be sent to John Polo at lmillerpknoxscholarship@gmail.com

Application Checklist:

- Digital Recording YouTube private links
- Organ Information Sheet
- Hymn photocopy
- Application Form (two pages)
- Confirmation of Recorded Performance
- Written Essay
- Reference Letters/Emails

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT MORE THAN THE REQUESTED MATERIALS/DOCUMENTATION

Deadline:

All materials **MUST** be received at the address above by June 1, 2024. Incomplete/late applications will not be considered. All application materials including recordings become property of the Scholarship Award Committee.

Judging:

All materials will be reviewed by the M. Louise Miller–Paul E. Knox Scholarship Award Committee and a decision will be made by early July 2024. If, in the opinion of the Committee, no applicant meets the criteria and standards for this award, no award will be given. All applicants will be notified by mail/telephone/email of the results of this award. The judgement of the Committee is final.

Award:

One scholarship award of \$4,000, paid directly to the applicant's school, will be given to the person who demonstrates the strongest skills as an organist and musician. Consideration will be given to musicality, playing style, appropriate registration, and potential for future growth and development. The Scholarship Award winner will be asked to submit a photo and short biography for publicity (local and for The American Guild of Organist magazine) purposes and will be invited to perform a recital as part of a future Greenville Chapter AGO's program year where that can be mutually scheduled (the Chapter will cover travel expenses and an honorarium – minimum of \$1,500).

Electronic Submission/Questions:

Contact John Polo, Scholarship Competition Program Director/Treasurer, through the email address lmillerpknoxscholarship@gmail.com if you have any questions on uploading your digital video to YouTube and/or making it a **Unlisted link**. The email address can also be used for any questions you have with the submission process.

~ The M. Louise Miller-Paul E. Knox Scholarship Competition Application for 2024 ~

APPLICATION FORM

Primary Contact Information

Name:	
Date:	
Address1:	
Address2:	
City/State/Zip:	
Primary Phone:	
Email:	

Student Status (check one and complete)

<input type="radio"/> I am a high school student and have been accepted to attend ____ in the fall of 2024. My intended major is _____. I expect to graduate in (year) _____ with a (degree) _____.
<input type="radio"/> I am enrolled (as of fall 2024) as an undergraduate at _____. My major program is _____. I expect to graduate in (year) _____ with a (degree) _____.
<input type="radio"/> Other pertinent information or clarification: _____

School History (list schools attended, with dates, and names of organ teachers with whom you studied during that time)

High School/end date/teachers:

Undergraduate 1/end date/teachers:

Undergraduate 2/Graduate 1/end-date/teachers:

Repertoire Submitted

Bach: Complete title/BWV/Edition Used –

Romantic/20th Century: Title/Composer/Dates/Edition Used –

Hymn: Title/Composer/Dates/Edition Used –

Personal/Professional References

Reference #1: Name/Relationship to you/Address/Email/Phone –

Reference #2: Name/Relationship to you/Address/Email/Phone –

~ The M. Louise Miller-Paul E. Knox Scholarship Competition Application for 2024 ~

CONFIRMATION OF RECORDED PERFORMANCE

This is to confirm that the submitted recording of the two required organ pieces being sent to the M. Louise Miller Scholarship Award Committee is an unaltered, representative performance made on

(date) _____ at (location) _____.

APPLICANT

I, _____

(print name of applicant), hereby declare and confirm that the submitted recording is an unaltered recording of my own performance that is continuous, and that is unedited within each piece.

Applicant Signature

Date

WITNESS

I, _____

(print name of witness), hereby declare and confirm that the submitted recording is an unaltered recording of each piece, the performance that is continuous, and that I was present during the recording session.

Witness Signature

Date

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WRITTEN ESSAY (100-300 Words)