



The Greater Bridgeport, Connecticut Chapter ~ American Guild of Organists

~ The M. Louise Miller-Paul E. Knox Scholarship Competition Award for 2021 ~

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 in regard to 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, enrolled in a program of organ study at a University, Conservatory or College within the United States of America.

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.

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

- a. **Baroque** ~ any Prelude/Toccatina/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/20th Century** ~ 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 or the Dropbox.
 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 viability of organ performance and/or church music as a sustainable career choice? Are you involved in any such activities at the present time?

5. **References:** Two references from current or recent organ teachers.

Application Checklist:

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

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT MORE THAN THE REQUESTED MATERIALS/DOCUMENTATION

Electronic Submission:

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

Deadline:

All materials MUST be received at the address above by June 1, 2021. 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 2021. 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 \$2,500 (paid directly to the applicant’s school) will be given to the person who demonstrates the strongest skills as an organist and musician, with regard to musical sensitivity, playing style, appropriate registration for each piece, and potential for future growth and development. The Scholarship Award winner will be asked to submit a photo and short biography for publicity purposes and will be invited to perform a recital as part of a future Greater Bridgeport Chapter AGO’s program year where that can be mutually scheduled (the Chapter will cover travel expenses and an honorarium.) In addition, the recipient will be asked to write a brief article for the Greater Bridgeport AGO’s newsletter, telling us about your experience in school, and how the scholarship award helped your education.

Questions?

Use the email lmillerpknoxscholarship@gmail.com and address your questions to either Scholarship Chair/Committee Coordinator Galen Tate regarding requirements of the competition, or if technology submission questions to Scholarship Treasurer and Technical Support, John Polo.

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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 2021. My intended major is _____. I expect to graduate in (year) _____ with a (degree) _____. |
| <input type="radio"/> I am enrolled (as of fall 2021) 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

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|--|
| Bach: Complete title/BWV/Edition Used – |
| Romantic/20 th 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 – |

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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)