



MARGARET SMITH MCALISTER ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP

Updated February 9th, 2025

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The American Guild of Organists (AGO) is a national professional association serving the organ and choral music fields. The Guild serves approximately 12,000 members in 275 chapters throughout the United States and abroad. Founded in 1896 as both an educational and service organization, the Guild seeks to set and maintain high musical standards and to promote understanding and appreciation of all aspects of organ and choral music.

As part of our effort to inspire young people to pursue organ study, the Tampa Chapter of the AGO awards a scholarship for organ lessons. Upon completion of a successful audition, students will be awarded a \$750 scholarship towards organ lessons with a qualified instructor. The Margaret Smith McAlister Scholarship—named in memory of a long-time Tampa organist—is funded by contributions received at our annual Chapter events and generous ongoing donations by the McAlister family and others.

Please see the details and the application form below. Each student must email a completed application to the email address below along with a recommendation letter from a professional music teacher familiar with your musical background and abilities. Auditions for the scholarship are offered on a rolling basis at various locations. Once your application is received, you will be contacted to schedule your audition.

Please scan and email the completed application and recommendation letter to ago.tampa.fl@gmail.com.

Thank you for your interest!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sylvia Chai".

Sylvia Chai
Scholarship Coordinator

MARGARET SMITH MCALISTER SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

Candidate requirements:

1. Must be under 21 years of age at the time of application.
2. Must be currently enrolled in a high school or undergraduate program.
3. Must reside in Hillsborough, Pasco, Polk, or Pinellas county during the duration of the scholarship.
4. Students are required to perform in at least one Tampa AGO member's recital during their study – your instructor will provide more details.

Scholarship details:

1. The award represents a \$750 value and will cover the cost of as many lessons as may be agreed upon by instructor and student. All other costs or materials will be the responsibility of the student including organ shoes and music.
2. The instructor must be a member of the AGO Tampa Chapter. If you have not selected an instructor, one will be recommended to you based on your location.
3. The AGO Tampa Chapter will pay the instructor directly. The instructor will be expected to bill the chapter and to submit a brief progress report at least quarterly.
4. The AGO Tampa Chapter reserves the right to revoke the scholarship at their discretion at any time.
5. You will be granted access to an organ for practice by your chosen instructor.
6. Students may be eligible to renew their scholarship at the end of the term, with the approval of the Tampa AGO Chapter and their instructor.

Audition requirements:

The candidate must play a live audition at the piano. Prior organ experience is not required. Candidates may play with a score, memorization is not required. Candidates will be expected to perform all of the following:

- Any keyboard work by J.S. Bach
- One movement from an 18th century sonata or sonatina by Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, or Clementi
- One piece of the candidate's choice written after 1830.
- The hymn "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (see attached score)
- Two sight reading selections to be revealed at the audition (a keyboard work by Bach and a SATB hymn)

**TAMPA CHAPTER
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS**

**MARGARET SMITH MCALISTER ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION FORM**

Name:		Address:
Phone Number:		Email:
Age:	Grade:	Years of Piano Study:
Current School:		Piano teacher's name & email:

Briefly explain why you are interested in studying the organ:

Describe your musical experience, other than piano lessons (other instruments played, musical ensembles, groups, camps, ect.):

Describe any other extracurricular activities you are involved in outside of music:

Please email your completed application and letter of recommendation from a professional music teacher to ago.tampa.fl@gmail.com

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

F C Am B^b F/C C F

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!

Dm7 G7 C Fmaj7 G7 C

peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

F F/C C F F/C C

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild, he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

B^b D Gm C7 F C F

with the an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain B^b D Gm C7 F C7 F

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt., P.D.

Music (MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7. D refrain 7.7): Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; adapt. William H. Cummings, 1856, P.D.