

## MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the American Guild of Organists is to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles, to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members.

## CODE OF ETHICS

Adopted by the National Council on October 23 , 1933  
as revised through April 16, 2007.

**PREAMBLE:** The purpose of the American Guild of Organists is to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles, to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members. Voting members are entitled to enjoy the privileges and are expected to accept the responsibilities of membership in the Guild. Members shall be considered equally for Guild offices and participation in Guild activities. These are the rules that shall be considered binding upon all voting members in good standing.

**RULE 1.** Members shall promote good working relationships within the American Guild of Organists and shall respect the employment of colleagues. Members shall address differences between themselves and other members by following the procedures outlined in the Discipline.

**RULE 2.** Members shall not seek or appear to be seeking employment for themselves, a student, or a colleague, in a position held by someone else. Members shall apply for employment only for a position which the employer, with the knowledge of the incumbent musician, has officially and publicly declared vacant by announcement of the vacancy.

**RULE 3.** In cases pending under the Procedures or in cases where the National Council has determined that a position has been made vacant by wrongful termination of a member of the American Guild of Organists, members shall not seek or accept regular or permanent employment for themselves, a student, or colleague at that Institution until the National Council is satisfied that differences between the Guild and the Institution have been resolved. Interim services may be provided for a period of 90 days.

**RULE 4.** Members shall obtain the approval of the incumbent musician before accepting an engagement for a wedding, funeral, or other service requested by a third party. In such cases, the incumbent should receive his/her customary fee and the third party is expected to provide it. It is the responsibility of the guest member to inform the third party of this rule. Members are advised to protect themselves as incumbents in this regard by negotiating employment contracts which secure these fees and which provide some responsibility, oversight and control as to choice of music, etc.

**RULE 5.** Members shall conduct professional activities with truthfulness, honesty and integrity, and shall maintain sensitivity in matters of a personal or confidential nature.

**RULE 6.** Members shall not discriminate against others on the basis of race, national origin, age, religious affiliation, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, or medical condition (including, but not limited to, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

# The American Guild of Organists

is the national professional association serving the organ and choral music fields. Founded in 1896 as both an educational and service organization, the AGO sets and maintains high musical standards and promotes understanding and appreciation of all aspects of organ and choral music. The Guild currently serves approximately 17,000 members in more than 300 local chapters throughout the United States and abroad. Membership is open to all and includes working professionals—organists, choral conductors, teachers, organbuilders, technicians, and suppliers to the field—as well as students, clergy, amateur musicians, and dedicated supporters.

# American Guild of Organists



MEMBERSHIP  
INFORMATION



## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

AGO Members enjoy a wealth of benefits and services under the guidance of the National Officers; Councillors for Education, Professional Development, Competitions and New Music, Conventions, and Finance and Development; Regional Councillors; and all other volunteer leaders of the Guild.

### PUBLICATIONS

- THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine (monthly)
- Chapter newsletters and membership directories
- Books, monographs, pamphlets, CDs, and DVDs

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Salary and compensation guidelines
- Model provisions for employment contracts
- Chapter placement services; National job postings
- Assistance with denominational relations
- Support for musical education of clergy
- Management and planning for church musicians

### CERTIFICATION

A comprehensive series of examinations for professional certification provides respected credentials for members and standards of excellence recognized by churches, synagogues, schools, and other employers.

- Service Playing Certificate (SPC)
- Colleague (CAGO)
- Associate (AAGO)
- Fellow (FAGO)
- Choir Master (ChM)

### ADVOCACY

- Support for the work of organists and organbuilders, organ teachers and organ students, amateurs and professionals
- Opportunities to meet with colleagues at local and national meetings
- Outreach to clergy, seminarians, denominational and lay leaders

### EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- National and Regional Conventions
- Annual Pedagogy Conferences
- Chapter events: recitals, workshops, meetings, and seminars
- Competitions in organ performance, organ improvisation, and organ and choral composition
- Pipe Organ Encounters for teens and adults
- PipeWorks for elementary school children
- January Jubilees for musicians in part-time employment
- Webinars

### OTHER BENEFITS

- Discounts on AGO convention registration fees and educational resources
- Eligibility for a no-annual-fee AGO credit card
- Liability insurance for chapter events
- Competitively priced, high-quality insurance plans
- Social and professional networking
- Online discussion groups

### WEB SITE — WWW.AGOHQ.ORG

- Job postings (available to members only), contact information for chapter and national leaders, policy and program updates
- Comprehensive list of academic institutions offering organ instruction
- Educational resources and signature items available on-line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Links to more than 250 organ-related Web sites

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to get more information



## MEMBERSHIP WITHOUT CHAPTER AFFILIATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE/FAX \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I agree to abide by the AGO Code of Ethics.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### VOTING MEMBERSHIP WITHOUT CHAPTER BENEFITS (1 YEAR):

- Regular Independent Member \$97
- Special Independent Member \$72
- Partner Independent Member \$72
- Student Independent Member \$37
- Lifetime Membership \$3,000

Contact AGO National Headquarters for payment options and additional information.

### NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP (THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine Only):

- |   |                               |                                |                                |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|   | 1 Year                        | 2 Years                        | 3 Years                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> US               | <input type="checkbox"/> \$62 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$114 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$162 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign & Canada | <input type="checkbox"/> \$80 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$148 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$210 |

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3-or 4-Digit Card Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

For membership **without** chapter affiliation, Send form and payment to:

AGO National Headquarters  
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260  
New York, NY 10115  
members@agohq.org | www.agohq.org  
Tel. 212-870-2310 | Fax 212-870-2163

## MEMBERSHIP WITH CHAPTER AFFILIATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE/FAX \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I agree to abide by the AGO Code of Ethics.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### VOTING MEMBERSHIP WITH CHAPTER BENEFITS (1 YEAR):

- Regular \$97
- Special (age 65 or over, under 21, or disabled) \$72
- Partner (2nd member at same address, no TAO) \$72
- Full-time Student (with school ID) \$37
- Dual (paid to second chapter)\* \$38
- Student Dual (paid to second chapter)\* \$15
- Lifetime Membership \$3,000

Contact AGO National Headquarters for payment options and additional information.

\* To be a Dual member at a second chapter, you must be a Regular, Special, Partner, or Student member of a Primary chapter first.

Send this form and payment to your local chapter. For chapter contact information, please visit [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org), or call AGO National Headquarters at 212-870-2310, [info@agohq.org](mailto:info@agohq.org).

Note to chapters: insert contact information in the box above.