

Boston Bach International Organ Competition  
September 3–11, 2022 • Boston, Massachusetts, USA

**COMPETITION RULES**

*rev. 2021-10-21*

**ELIGIBILITY**

The competition is open to organists of any nationality who

- were born between September 2, 1984 and August 31, 1996, and as such will be between the ages of 26 and 37, inclusive, on September 1, 2022;
- have completed all university requirements for a degree or diploma in church music, sacred music, or liturgical music (applied music with keyboard emphasis, or church music, or equivalent preparation), excepting only the final degree recital (Konzertexam) and completion of doctoral dissertations;
- currently serve in their first professional position;
- are not academic or unofficial students of any of the jurors; and
- are not previous prizewinners of the Boston Bach International Organ Competition.

In order to promote a healthy environment of competition, we additionally request that all applicants be vaccinated against COVID-19.

We additionally recommend that applicants be proficient in spoken English, in order to promote successful communication at the Competition as well as with people who live and work in Boston.

**APPLICATION**

Application to the Boston Bach International Organ Competition is by e-mail. A complete application consists of all of the following:

- completed application form (the application form is available at [bbioc.org](http://bbioc.org))
- application fee of US \$150 (details below)
- photocopy of a birth certificate, passport, or ID card verifying the competitor's identity and birth date
- curriculum vitae including names of all major teachers, post-secondary schools attended, degrees and prizes awarded, and current employment
- biography of 150 words or fewer
- color portrait at 3in by 5in (9cm by 13cm) size, of 300dpi or greater resolution
- a combined video/audio recording, uncut (within each piece), taken from the side, showing the player at the keyboard, provided via private YouTube link, of the following organ works:
  - CPE Bach: Sonata in B-flat, Wq 70/2—II. Arioso
  - JS Bach: Either of the following trio sonata movements:

- Sonata no. 6 in G, BWV 530—III. Allegro
- Sonata no. 5 in C, BWV 529—III. Allegro
- JS Bach: Either of the following ornamented chorales from the *Orgel-Büchlein*:
  - Das alte Jahr vergangen ist, BWV 614
  - Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein, BWV 641
- JS Bach: Either of the following large-scale fugues:
  - Fugue in a, BWV 543/2
  - Fugue in e, BWV 548/2
- a statement signed by a professional musician who has witnessed your recorded performances

Applicants should send these items in a single e-mail to [secretariat@bbioc.org](mailto:secretariat@bbioc.org). Attach supporting documents to the e-mail in .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .jpg format as necessary. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. If you do not receive a personal acknowledgement from the competition secretary within two days, you should contact [secretariat@bbioc.org](mailto:secretariat@bbioc.org).

If you are selected to compete in the live rounds, your 150-word biography and portrait will be published in the competition brochure.

Upload your competition recordings to YouTube and provide private links to each recording in your application e-mail.

The completed application e-mail must be submitted no later than Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

## **APPLICATION FEE**

The application fee is US \$150. The application fee is to be remitted free of all charges for the recipient by February 15, 2022 to the following bank account with the notation “Purpose of payment: Boston Bach Competition 2022 + Name of participant”:

Recipient: BOFAUS3NXXX (BIC/Swift Code)

ABA routing: 026009593

Account number: 004617363372

Bank address: Bank of America, N.A., 222 Broadway, New York NY 10038

The remittance slip must include the name of the participant written legibly (especially if the registration fee is transferred by somebody else). The payment confirmation slip is to be presented by the candidate at the Competition office on arrival. Payment may also be made by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, EuroCard, or JCB) supplying the card number and its expiration date. The application fee is non-refundable.

## **PRELIMINARY ROUND VIDEO RECORDINGS**

Each piece in the preliminary round will be presented via a private YouTube link to a combined video/audio recording, taken from the side, showing the player at the keyboard. The recordings must be produced for the competition, and not re-used from past performances. Recorded performances may be

live or private, but no extraneous noise from an audience is allowed. Each piece should comprise a separate recording and private link. No cuts are allowed within pieces or movements.

Remember that the judges will decide whether you will be invited to take part in the competition rounds on the strength of your recorded performance alone. It is in your interest to ensure that your recorded performance is of the highest technical quality. To this end, the video and audio may be taken from different sources (i.e., the audio may come from e.g. suspended microphones that produce higher-quality audio than the video camera can provide), but the video and audio should be synchronized in the final recording. The video should be taken from the side and show the player at the keyboard.

Your recording must be made using a pipe organ. Different instruments may be used for each piece as the applicant deems appropriate. A statement signed by a professional musician who has witnessed your recorded performances must be included as one of the documents attached to the application e-mail.

## **NOTIFICATION**

Successful applicants will be notified via e-mail from the competition office on Monday, March 21, 2022 (J.S. Bach's 337th birthday). Each successful applicant should reply with confirmation of his or her intention to compete in the live rounds by March 31, 2022. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified following receipt of intention to compete in the live rounds from the 16 successful applicants.

## **TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS**

All invited candidates who do not reside within greater Boston will be provided round-trip coach air transportation and housing through the completion of the final round. If an eliminated competitor chooses to leave after the completion of the semifinal round, he or she will be responsible for any and all resulting fee and fare changes.

Accommodation is provided for all competitors, and any registrant, free of charge in private houses on a bed and breakfast basis. All competitors are encouraged to stay for the entirety of the competition. All participants will receive a subsidy for meals. Vouchers towards the cost of meals for competitors and their registrants will be provided.

Competition participants should plan to arrive in Boston by the evening of Wednesday, August 31, and must register in person on the morning of Thursday, September 1 at the Competition office:

First Lutheran Church of Boston  
299 Berkeley Street  
Boston, MA 02116

## **JUDGING**

In the recorded round, a pre-selection committee will select 16 candidates to participate in the live rounds of the competition on the basis of the submitted video recordings.

The jury for the live rounds consists of internationally recognized organists who are former major international competition winners. The jurors are Martin Schmeding (chair), Stephen Farr, Erica Johnson, Bálint Karosi, Karin Nelson, Dana Robinson, and Peter Westerbrink. The jury's decisions are final and exclude any legal recourse. The jury may interrupt any recitals that exceed the time limit set out in the rules.

After each round, judges will be available to talk to competitors who are not continuing to the next round. No contact is permitted between a competitor and the jury during the competitor's active involvement in

the competition. A personal exchange regarding the technical and artistic performance of the participant is permitted only after he or she has been eliminated from the competition or has won a prize. Even then, a discussion regarding procedural matters relating to the competition (in particular, voting behavior) is inappropriate. Judges' comments are not to be quoted in press materials.

## **EDITIONS**

It is expected that candidates will use the most current Urtext editions of each work performed in the competition. While candidates may perform from photocopies for the sake of convenience, candidates admitted to the live rounds must also bring one copy of the original scores of the works they perform. The competition cannot be held liable for any law infringement committed by a candidate using illegal copies.

## **PROGRAM**

Competitors will play in alphabetical order based on the first letter of their surname. The point in the alphabet at which the competition will start is to be determined prior to the first round by the casting of lots. The same order of appearance will apply to all rounds.

The order of the pieces within each round is up to the discretion of the candidate and must be submitted in definitive form to [secretariat@bbioc.org](mailto:secretariat@bbioc.org) by August 1, 2022. Candidates may play or omit repeats as they see fit, but must adhere to the following time limits: first round, 35 minutes; second round, 45 minutes; final round, 60 minutes. Competitors will need to supply PDF copies of any additional works they choose to play in the final round to [secretariat@bbioc.org](mailto:secretariat@bbioc.org).

## **PRACTICE SCHEDULING AND ASSISTANCE**

For the first round, each competitor will practice as part of a small group. During practice sessions and the live rounds, competitors will serve as each others' page turners and registrants. This is intended to foster collegiality and cooperation amongst the competitors, and to encourage efficiency in practicing. This flexible arrangement also maximizes familiarity with the instruments and their environments. The group practice sessions will last for 2 hours at each venue.

Each competitor admitted to the second round will have 3 hours to practice at the Church of the Advent, as well as 1 hour at First Lutheran Church to "think ahead" to the final round.

Each competitor admitted to the final round will have 2 hours to practice at First Lutheran Church.

The competition will provide competitors with practice organs in other venues at no charge.

## **PRIZES**

- First prize: \$17,500
- Second prize: \$16,850
- Third prize: \$4114
- Special prize for the best interpretation of the work by Bálint Karosi: \$2000

The prizewinners are entitled to use the title "Boston Bach Prizewinner."

Concert venues for prizewinners will announce their interest before the competition.

The jury is not obligated to award prizes.

## **BROADCASTING**

The Organizer shall be entitled to make audio and video recordings of all the performances and other events during the Competition and to use them in connection therewith. Recordings of all performances and other competition events may be broadcast live and/or later (over the radio and internet). Competition participants shall not be entitled to claim any remuneration for these recordings.

The prizewinners undertake to perform in the prizewinners' concert and to allow the recording thereof to be published for non-commercial purposes without a fee. Recordings arranged by or for participants are not allowed.