

54th Annual William C. (Bill) Hall Pipe Organ Competition

Presented by



First Presbyterian
CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO

LOVING CHRIST. LOVING ONE ANOTHER. LOVING THE CITY.

MARCH 7, 2026

FOR GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE ORGAN STUDENTS
ENROLLED IN MUSIC DEPARTMENTS AT
TEXAS COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

54th Annual
Hall Pipe Organ Competition
Saturday, March 7, 2026

UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

Total allotted time for performance: 25 minutes

REQUIRED SELECTIONS:

Bach Selections:

Undergraduate competitors will **choose** either Option A or Option B of the following Bach compositions:

- **OPTION A:**
Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein, BWV 641 (Orgelbüchlein)
AND *Fugue in G Minor, BWV 578*
- **OPTION B:**
Herzlich tut mich verlangen, BWV 727 (Miscellaneous Chorales)
AND *Fugue in B Minor, BWV 544*

Second Selection: The contestant is to choose a work of contrasting style.

Hymn Selection: The competition will supply all contestants a PDF of a newly composed or previously commissioned hymn, available by January 2026. The hymn will be emailed to each registered contestant as soon as it becomes available.

GRADUATE LEVEL

Total allotted time for performance: 30 minutes

REQUIRED SELECTIONS

Bach Selections:

Graduate competitors will **choose** either Option A or Option B of the following Bach compositions, **in addition to performing ‘Nun komm, der heiden Heiland, BWV 659 (Leipzig Chorales)’**

- **Required of all GRADUATE contestants** - *Nun komm, der heiden Heiland, BWV 659 (Leipzig Chorales)*.
- **OPTION A:**
Fugue in F major, BWV 540
- **OPTION B:**
Fugue in E minor, BWV 548

Second Selection: The contestant is to choose a work of contrasting style.

Hymn Selection: The competition will supply all contestants a PDF of a newly composed or previously commissioned hymn, available by January 2026. The hymn will be emailed to each registered contestant as soon as it becomes available.

54th Annual Hall Pipe Organ Competition

GRADUATE & UNDERGRADUATE COMPETITION RULES

1. The Competition is open to all undergraduate and graduate organ students of any age currently enrolled at a Texas university or college.
2. The Undergraduate Competition is not open to previous Undergraduate 1st prize winners of the Hall Pipe Organ Competition. The Graduate Competition is not open to previous Graduate 1st prize winners of the Hall Pipe Organ Competition.
3. The Competition is limited to the first ten (10) acceptable applicants in each division. An alternate list will be compiled after the first ten contestants are named.
4. The Hymn-Playing portion of the contest will be judged on its own merit. Hymn Playing prizes will be awarded in each division (undergraduate/graduate) if the judges deem a contestant's hymn playing deserving of the prize. The contestant will perform a newly composed or previously commissioned hymn supplied by the competition no later than January 2026. The hymn will be emailed to each registered contestant as soon as it becomes available.

The contestant will play the entire hymn including all the verses. The judges will also consider the text of each verse as it relates to the contestants musical interpretation of the hymn. The contestant is required to play an introduction to the hymn, followed by playing the first stanza as it is written. Additional verses can be played/interpreted by the contestant as they choose using either the hymn accompaniment provided or their own re-harmonization/improvisation. A small choir or quartet will be present in the choir loft to aid in the singing of the hymn. The contestant is encouraged to communicate with the singers, using a nod or other gestures to indicate entrances and/or releases. In addition, a brief rehearsal period with the singers is provided prior to each contestant's performance in which they may provide additional instructions.

5. Under 'Required Selections,' each contestant will prepare the Bach composition(s) indicated for their respective division. For the undergraduate division, each contestant will select one of the two options listed for the Bach repertoire requirement. For the graduate division, each contestant will select one of the two options listed for the Bach repertoire requirement **and** also perform the required Bach chorale '*Nun komm, der heiden Heiland, BWV 659 (Leipzig Chorales)*.'
6. Each contestant will be required to perform in the following order: All stanzas of the selected hymn as accompaniment to congregational singing, the selected J.S. Bach composition(s), and a composition of choice in contrasting style.
7. Memorization of the selections is not required and will not influence the judges' decisions. The decisions of the judges are final.
8. Time allotted to each undergraduate contestant for performance is a total of twenty five (25) minutes.
Time allotted to each graduate contestant for performance is a total of thirty (30) minutes.
This includes time used for adjusting the bench, setting registration, changing the memory, etc.
9. A \$60.00 fee is required to enter the Competition. A refund of this entry fee may be requested if the contestant elects to withdraw from the Competition before Friday, February 6, 2026. Withdrawals after that date will not receive a refund of the entry fee. The fee of anyone placed on a standby (alternate) list who is not contacted to participate will be refunded.
10. **Applications must be postmarked no later than Friday, February 6, 2026. Changes in literature to be performed, identified by each student on their application form, will not be allowed after Friday, February 13, 2026.**
11. Each contestant will be provided and assigned a maximum practice time of a two hour period during the following days and hours:

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 -	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Thursday, March 5, 2026 -	8:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Friday, March 6, 2026 -	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Each contestant will be assigned **3 memory levels**, and registrations are to be prepared during the contestant's practice time.
12. Contestants are responsible for reserving practice times by contacting Dr. Jae Ha, organist at FPC San Antonio, at (210) 226-0215 ext. 229 or by e-mail at jaeH@fpcsat.org. Dr. Ha is available by phone on Tuesday, Wednesday (afternoon), Thursday, and Friday of any given week. **Rehearsal arrangements should be made as soon as possible in order to secure a preferred rehearsal time. Rehearsal times are assigned on a "first come – first serve" basis for fully registered applicants and must be arranged before February 13, 2026.** Contestants may not give rehearsal time to another contestant or exchange their rehearsal slot with another contestant. Practice times may be arranged after your application and fee is received by the church.

13. Contestants may arrange for page turners to assist ONLY by turning pages. This person cannot be the organ instructor. However, the organ instructor may assist the contestant during the practice period. The use of a metronome during the competition performance is prohibited. **Contestants are responsible for making their own arrangements for a page turner IN ADVANCE of the day of competition. The competition does not supply page turners.**
14. The adjudicators will have copies of the required Bach works and the commissioned hymn. For your ‘Second Selection,’ the competition has a small library of copies used by the judges. If your “Second Selection” work of choice is not in that library, you will be requested to submit three (3) unmarked scores of the “Second Selection” work of choice no later than your assigned practice time for the adjudicators’ use. Any music copies provided by the contestant will be returned to the contestant at the conclusion of the Competition. Please provide original published scores of any works under current copyright (not copies). Photocopies of ‘public domain’ works will be accepted.
15. Each contestant will be required to report to the Competition Officials at least one hour before the time of their performance. Exception: the first two contestants of the day may report no later than 30 minutes before starting time of the Competition. At the time of rehearsal, each contestant will be advised of the reporting time on the day of performance.
16. **If a minimum number of contestants have not registered to participate in the competition by February 2026, we reserve the right to either post-poner, alter, or cancel the competition. If this occurs, we will refund all entry fees and contact registered participants.**

Prizes

For the awarding of both 1st and 2nd place prizes, there must be a minimum of 5 contestants participating in the division. If there are fewer than 5 contestants in an individual division, the awarding of either 1st and/or 2nd prize will be at the discretion of the judges in consultation with the competition administrator(s). Hymn Playing prizes will be awarded only if the judges deem a contestant’s hymn playing deserving of the prize.

***** All prize money awarded to winning contestants will be paid by check and sent by mail within two weeks following the conclusion of the competition.***

<u>Graduate Prizes</u>	<u>Undergraduate Prizes</u>
1st - \$1,600 2nd - \$1,200	1st - \$1,200 2nd - \$800
\$300 prize for Hymn Playing Excellence	\$300 prize for Hymn Playing Excellence

Communications and questions may be directed to the following:

General questions regarding the competition -
Tom Dooling, Minister of Music
(210) 271-2717 or tomd@fpcsat.org

For scheduling rehearsal times or questions about the organ -
Dr. Jae Ha, Organist
(210) 271-2729 or jaeH@fpcsat.org



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