

# American Guild of Organists - Colleague Certificate (CAGO)

## Timeline

- Fixed exam dates in November and May.
- Fixed application deadlines approximately 2 months prior: 15 September, 1 March.
- Repertoire applies to two **academic** (not calendar) years.
  - AGO chooses new selections for CAGO in odd-numbered years in July.
  - For example, selections published July 2009 are good for November 2009, May 2010, November 2010, and May 2011. New selections will be published July 2011.

## Exam Environment

- Member of chapter will serve as proctor.
- Application fee of \$130.
- Recorded exam on an organ the candidate does not play regularly.
- The recording is later judged by two people. Candidate will receive a copy of both judges' comments.
- Pass criteria is 70% total with 50% of each category.

## Music

- **Unlimited preparation time:**
  - (15 pts) Introduction and two verses of two hymns from *Examination Hymn Booklet*.
    - Sensitivity to text and contrast between verses.
  - Keyboard skills practice.
- **6 to 24 months preparation time:**
  - (25 pts) One of two repertoire choices from each of baroque, romantic, and 20th century eras.
  - (10 pts) Choral anthem accompaniment.
  - (10 pts) Vocal solo accompaniment.
- **20-minute preparation time:**
  - (10 pts) Harmonization of a hymn tune or melody.
  - (10 pts) Transpose 4-part two specified amounts (four possibilities are +- half or whole step).
  - (10 pts) Improvisation (Modulation). One of:
    - two 4-measure passages which both modulate and cadence.
    - two 8-measure passages based on a given melody, which both modulate and cadence.
    - modulate between two specified hymns in the *Examination Hymn Booklet*.
- **1-minute preparation time:**
  - (10 pts) Sightread a short, three-stave passage.

## Study Aids

- AGO-provided study guide and CD (still on cassette tape as of 2008).
- Old exams.
- *Examination Hymn Booklet*.

## Study Ideas

- Sight reading: Buy a sightreading study book and play one exercise a day.
- Harmonization: Write out the melody to a dozen hymns and harmonize one per day.
- Transposition: Transpose one hymn per day four ways: +- half and whole step.
- As exam approaches, perform these daily tasks each under a 7-minute limit.

## CAGO Repertoire for November 2010 and May 2011

- **“Group A” (Baroque). Choose one:**
  - Jan P. Sweelinck  
Puer nobis nascitur (Ons is gheboren een kindekijn), four variations, any edition, including No. 8 in *Chorale Arrangements* (Masters Music Publications M1919) or No. 8 in *Choralbearbeitungen* (Bärenreiter 2817).
  - J.S. Bach  
Trio Sonata No. 2 in C Minor, BWV 526, second movement, Largo (any edition).
- **“Group B” (Romantic). Choose one:**
  - Arthur Honegger  
II. Choral, from *Two Pieces* (Masters Music Publications M1468 or original Chester edition, *Fugue et Choral*).
  - Frank Bridge  
6. Allegro ben Moderato, from *Six Organ Pieces* (Masters Music Publications 2364 or original 1912 Novello edition, *Organ Pieces, Book II*).
- **“Group C” (Twentieth century). Choose one:**
  - Bernard Wayne Sanders  
Any piece from *Four Chorale Preludes for Organ* (GIA Publications G-4920).
  - James Biery  
Elegy (MorningStar MSM-10-594). Organ solo version, not version with optional violin part.
- **Choral anthem accompaniment.**
  - W. A. Mozart  
Laudate Dominum from *Vesperae solennes de confessore*, KV 339 (any edition). Also available separately in several octavo editions including Alfred (ed. Parker/Shaw) LG 51165.
- **Vocal solo accompaniment.**
  - Gabriel Fauré  
Pie Jesu from *Requiem* (any edition). Also available separately from several publishers.

## Contacts

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