

2025 Cooper-Miller Organ Scholarship

\$1,500 Cash Award Presented by the Central North Carolina Chapter American Guild of Organists

*The Cooper-Miller Organ Scholarship is presented in memory of
two distinguished organists from Raleigh, North Carolina*

Harry Cooper, D.Mus., FAGO, born December 1897, died May 1986. Dr. Cooper was a member of the AGO from 1920 until his death. He was long-time head of the organ department at Meredith College; organist/choir master at Christ Episcopal Church Raleigh for many years; subsequently served at First Baptist Church, Raleigh for years; and was a consultant on organs.

Catherine Ritchey Miller, born June 1904, died January 1998. She was a member of the AGO from 1933 until her death, and was an honorary member of the Central North Carolina Chapter since 1990. Mrs. Miller was long-time organist at Edenton Street United Methodist Church and also served later at White Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Scholarship Mission

To encourage promising young musicians and support them in the early stages of their education in organ.

Critical Dates

Applications will be solicited from area teachers, churches, and musicians in the Fall of 2023. Deadline for submitting an application is January 15, 2025. Auditions will take place at an area church February 8, 2025.

Donations Welcome

The Cooper-Miller Organ Scholarship Fund is the perfect way to memorialize or honor someone who loves and supports sacred music. It is also an important way to identify, support and develop the organists needed to continue the great tradition of sacred music in worship services.

**Information and
Application Forms:**
Lorraine Magnuson, Chair
919-870-6942
raineymag@gmail.com

Donations:
Lee Harris
210 West Boulevard
Laurinburg, N.C. 28352
Make check out to Central NC Chapter

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Application Process

Application Deadline: January 15

A complete application will include:

- 1) Application Form
- 2) Letter of Recommendation from teacher(s) including both specific criteria on a set scale and descriptive comment
- 3) Student's written statement of goals and intentions in organ study and service
- 4) Statement from parents/guardian/responsible party that they will encourage/support student's interest in studying organ

Note: A statement of financial need from parents/guardian/responsible party may be submitted.

Eligibility Criteria

- Age range 13-18. For the upper age limit, student should be 18 at the time of the audition and still be in high school
- Intermediate keyboard skills
- Serious approach and desire to learn organ
- Recommendation of teacher(s)

Audition Procedures

Auditions will take place at a Raleigh area church, location to be announced later.

Applicants should choose a hymn or song from their faith tradition and prepare two verses as though they were being sung in a service of worship. Applicant should also prepare a solo appropriate in a worship service, plus a third piece of the applicant's choosing. Student may choose to perform on either piano or organ. Performances will be evaluated by a panel of judges and recommendations will be made to the scholarship committee.

Financial Goal

Maximum value of award is \$1500. In addition, the winner receives a 2-year student membership in AGO. The award may be used for any of the following: educational events, private organ lessons, organ shoes, and music.

NOTES:

- Scholarship committee and judges will make final determinations of awards and specific amounts for the best usage and stewardship of the funds.
- Judges reserve the right not to award any prize.
- Decision of the judges is final.
- A candidate cannot win the \$1500 award 2 years in succession.
- Recipients will be invited to perform at a chapter meeting.

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Application

Applicant_____Date_____

Address_____

Phone_____Email _____

Date of Birth_____Age _____

Instruments studied_____

Years of Study_____

Music instructors_____

Tell why you are applying and what you hope to accomplish if you win this award.
Please include your goals and intentions related to your organ study and service to the community:

Audition Titles:

Hymn/Song

Title

Source hymnal/collection

1st Piece (solo for worship service)

Title

Composer/Arranger

2nd Piece

Title

Composer/Arranger

Applications to be submitted by January 15.

Send application to:

Lorraine Magnuson - Chair, Scholarship Committee

8825 O'Neal Road

Raleigh, NC 27613

raineymag@gmail.com (Electronic submissions preferable)

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Parent/Guardian Statement

Please provide a statement of your intentions to encourage and support this student's interest in studying organ. How might the scholarship funds be used? Would your family be able to provide transportation for attendance at an educational workshop?

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Letter of Recommendation

To the Applicant:

Please provide this 2-page form to your teacher(s) after you have completed the top portion.

This recommendation will not be disclosed to any unauthorized individual without your consent. You will be accorded access to its contents unless you voluntarily waive your right of access.

I have read the information above and hereby

_____waive

_____do not waive

my right of access to this document.

Name of

Applicant_____

*Signature_____Date_____

To the Recommender:

Your willingness to provide information about the applicant named above, who is applying for the Cooper-Miller Organ Scholarship, is greatly appreciated. The applicant will have access to this recommendation unless he/she has waived that right.

Please return this form to:

Lorraine Magnuson

Chair, Scholarship Committee

8825 O'Neal Road

Raleigh, NC 27613

raineymag@gmail.com (electronic submissions preferrable)

All mailed materials must be postmarked no later than January 15 for an application to be considered.

Name of Recommender_____

Address_____

Telephone_____E-mail _____

* - Signature lines can be electronic

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(Letter of Recommendation, page 2)

1) How long and under what circumstances have you known the applicant?

2) Please evaluate the applicant using the following chart. If you are unable to judge, please indicate.

Initiative

Below Average___; Average___; Good___; Excellent___; Exceptional___; Unable to judge___

Motivation

Below Average___; Average___; Good___; Excellent___; Exceptional___; Unable to judge___

Perseverance

Below Average___; Average___; Good___; Excellent___; Exceptional___; Unable to judge___

Maturity

Below Average___; Average___; Good___; Excellent___; Exceptional___; Unable to judge___

Interpersonal skills

Below Average___; Average___; Good___; Excellent___; Exceptional___; Unable to judge___

Communication skills

Below Average___; Average___; Good___; Excellent___; Exceptional___; Unable to judge___

Potential for growth

Below Average___; Average___; Good___; Excellent___; Exceptional___; Unable to judge___

3) Why do you feel this student should receive a scholarship? Your observations and comments will assist the Scholarship Committee in its deliberations.

*Signature_____Date_____

* - Signature lines can be electronic