UNCSA/Salem College
Middle School/High School
Organ Festival & Competition

TWO Divisions – Intermediate & Advanced

Friday-Sunday, January 29-31, 2027
Salem College & UNCSA Campuses
Winston-Salem, NC

2027 Competition Rules – *Advanced Division*

1. The Advanced Division competition is open to any organ student who is a high school senior or *younger*.

2. By **December 18, 2026**, contestants must submit a digital audio recording containing the following:
   a. A Bach Prelude (or Toccata or Fantasy) & Fugue (*excluding* the "8 Little") or *two* movements from a trio sonata or concerto.
   b. One or more contrasting movement(s) from a single work in the 19th – 20th/21st century repertories.
   c. A hymn (introduction & two stanzas with appropriate registration, reharmonizations, descants, or other embellishments) chosen from the competition list. The first stanza should be played as written on the page, the second stanza should include embellishments. Attention to text is expected.

   Note: All embellishments to the hymn must be composed or improvised by the competitor. No published or otherwise created music by another person is allowed.

3. The recording must be submitted as an Unlisted YouTube link (video recordings only).

4. The total time allowed for both the Recording and Finals round is **25 minutes** including the hymn; **NO editing of the recording is allowed.** Each part above (a, b, & c) should be recorded and submitted separately.

5. Letters of recommendation are required from the student's primary organ teacher, and from a second musician who knows the student's current work and level of achievement. These should be emailed directly to olsent@uncsa.edu from the recommender.

6. Up to **Six** (6) finalists will be chosen based on their submitted recordings and letters of recommendations, and will be notified via email by **January 6, 2027**. The University of North Carolina School of the Arts has the sole authority to determine the composition of the pool of six (6) finalists.

7. Finalists will perform the same repertoire that was submitted on the recording, including the hymn (the embellishments/improvisation may be modified for the competition).

8. Completed online application form (available online at the Festival Page here: https://www.uncsa.edu/music/events/organ-festival.aspx) including recording links of the two contrasting works and hymn must be **received** by **December 18, 2026**.
9. The $90 entry fee must accompany the application (received via web portal following the submission of your application).

Prizes totaling more than $12,000 may be awarded including the following prizes*:

First Prize:	$2000 (or one year of in-state tuition to UNCSA, currently valued at over $9000)
Second Prize:	$1000 (Sponsored by the Piedmont NC AGO Chapter *and* $3000 scholarship if prize-winner matriculates to UNCSA)
Third Prize:	$500
Hymn prize:	$350 (In honor of the late Margaret and Dr. John Mueller); awarded separately from other prizes

*The top three prize-winners will receive a gift certificate to The Leupold Foundation for up to $100 towards a ONE-TIME purchase on the website (www.theleupoldfoundation.org) of organ music and/or books from Leupold Editions (the publishing division), Leupold Music (the pre-owned division of organ music, books and old periodicals) and/or The Leupold Archives.

10. Prize-winners will perform in recital on Saturday afternoon at approximately 4:00 PM on the competition instrument, performing repertoire from the competition. All contestants are encouraged to remain throughout the weekend for the workshops, master classes and lessons.
11. *The competition may be used by high school seniors as an audition into college (UNCSA or Salem College). Those younger wishing to audition into UNCSA's High School Program may also use the competition as their audition. All competitors wishing to matriculate will need to follow all other application processes found HERE.*
12. The use of photocopied or other illegally reproduced copyrighted scores of music is strictly prohibited, and will disqualify any competitor from participation in the competition. *Exceptions to this rule apply only to reductions and to pages duplicated for the purpose of facilitating page turns.*
13. Page-turners will be made available upon the contestant's request; no assistance will be allowed for registration or pushing pistons.
14. Practice time will be arranged in advance after finalists have been selected. Ample time will be provided.
15. *If requested,* scores of the pieces to be performed must be furnished.
16. The order of performance on the competition day will be drawn at random prior to the competition.
17. Hotel information will be provided upon request (hotels will be at the competitor's expense).
18. The application fee may be waived in the case of demonstrated financial need. Please contact Dr. Olsen to be considered.
19. Previous First-Prize winners are ineligible to compete.

UNCSA/Salem College Middle School/High School
2027 Organ Festival and Competition Schedule
Advanced Division

Friday, December 18, 2026
Online application (available at https://www.uncsa.edu/music/events/organ-festival.aspx), recording links, and letters of recommendation (emailed directly to olsent@uncsa.edu) are due. In addition, the application fee of $90 must be paid via web portal upon submission of application.

By Wednesday, January 6, 2027
Up to six (6) finalists will be notified for performance at the 2027 Festival & Competition.

**Thursday, January 28, 2027
(optional) Bonus Masterclass with David Higgs (UNCSA students performing), 7:00-9:00 PM
Crawford Hall, UNCSA

Friday, January 29, 2027 **Hanes Auditorium, Elberson Fine Arts Center, Salem College
(In Apple Maps: 500 E. Salem Ave., Winston-Salem; In Google Maps: 430 Leaders Ave, Winston-Salem)
8:00 AM – 6:00 PM: Practice on competition instrument
Practice time arranged with each individual competitor. (Local competitors may arrange practice time prior to January 29, but no more than two weeks in advance; an equal amount of practice time will be given to all competitors.)

Workshops will be offered for competitors on Friday (times, TBD). They will include sessions on organ building/maintenance with an introduction to Noack, Op. 171, an Introduction to the Harpsichord, and participants will build a fully functioning pipe organ with an *Orgelkids* kit.
Augsburg Lutheran Church

**Friday, January 29, 2027
7:00 PM: Gala Recital of the Inauguration Season of Noack, Op. 171 performed by David Higgs (Eastman School of Music)
Augsburg Lutheran Church (845 W. 5th St.)

**Saturday, January 30, 2027 (competition times tentative; dependent on number of applicants)
~8:00 AM – 3:30 PM: Competition (including warm-up times)
Hanes Auditorium, Elberson Fine Arts Center, Salem College

~4:00 PM: Prizes Awarded and Winners Recital (performing competition repertoire)
Hanes Auditorium [both Divisions], Elberson Fine Arts Center, Salem College

6:00 PM: Festival Dinner (included in application fee for competitor and one guest; additional guests are welcome for $20) **SAAB 306, UNCSA**

7:30 PM: UNCSA/Salem College Organ studio recital on C.B. Fisk, Op. 75
Crawford Hall, Gray Building, UNCSA

**Sunday, January 31, 2027
9:00AM-12:00 PM: Available 30-minute individual lesson times with Dr. Olsen (optional)
Crawford Hall, UNCSA

1:00-2:00 PM: Workshop – Playing Hymns: Inspiring Congregations to Sing
Augsburg Lutheran Church

2:00-3:30 PM: Masterclass with Dr. Olsen
Augsburg Lutheran Church

3:30PM-: Available 30-minute individual lesson times with Dr. Olsen (optional)
Augsburg Lutheran Church

UNCSA/Salem College
Middle School/High School
Organ Festival & Competition

2027 Competition Rules – *Intermediate Division*

1. The Intermediate Division competition is open to any organ student who is a high school senior or *younger*.

2. By **December 18, 2026**, contestants must submit a digital audio recording containing the following:
    a. A Prelude (or Toccata or Fantasy, *including* from Bach's "8 Little") from the baroque era (any composer).
    b. One contrasting movement or work from another era.
    c. A hymn (introduction & one stanza) chosen from the competition list

3. The recording must be submitted as an Unlisted YouTube link (video recordings only).

4. The total time allowed for both the Recording and Finals round is **15 minutes** including the hymn; **NO editing of the recording is allowed.** Each part above (a, b, & c) should be recorded and submitted separately.

5. A single letter of recommendation is required from the student's primary organ teacher. This should be emailed directly to olsent@uncsa.edu from the recommender.

6. Up to **ten** (10) participants will be chosen based on their submitted recordings and letters of recommendations, and will be notified via email by **January 6, 2027**. The University of North Carolina School of the Arts has the sole authority to determine the composition of the pool of ten (10) finalists.

7. Finalists will perform the same repertoire that was submitted on the recording, including the hymn.

8. Completed online application form (available online at the Festival Page here: https://www.uncsa.edu/music/events/organ-festival.aspx) including recording links of the two contrasting works and hymn must be **received** by **December 18, 2026**.

9. The $65 entry fee must accompany the application (received via web portal following the submission of your application).

Prizes totaling $1,000 will be awarded as the following prizes*:

First Prize:	$500 (Sponsored by the Piedmont NC AGO Chapter)
Second Prize:	$250
Third Prize:	$150
Hymn prize:	$100 (In honor of Margaret Sandresky, faculty emerita, Salem College); awarded separately from other prizes

**All prize-winners will receive a gift certificate to The Leupold Foundation for up to $50 towards a ONE-TIME purchase on the website (www.theleupoldfoundation.org) of organ music and/or books from Leupold Editions (the publishing division), Leupold Music (the pre-owned division of organ music, books and old periodicals) and/or The Leupold Archives.

10. Prize-winners will perform in recital on Saturday afternoon at approximately 4:00 PM (please note this will be on the Holtkamp organ at Salem College), performing repertoire from the competition. All contestants are encouraged to remain throughout the weekend for the workshops, master classes and lessons.
11. *The competition may be used to audition into UNCSA's High School Program. All competitors wishing to matriculate will need to follow all other application processes found HERE.*
12. The use of photocopied or other illegally reproduced copyrighted scores of music is strictly prohibited, and will disqualify any competitor from participation in the competition. *Exceptions to this rule apply only to reductions and to pages duplicated for the purpose of facilitating page turns.*
13. Page-turners will be made available upon the contestant's request; no assistance will be allowed for registration or pushing pistons.
14. Practice time will be arranged in advance after finalists have been selected. Ample time will be provided.
15. *If requested,* scores of the pieces to be performed must be furnished.
16. The order of performance on the competition day will be drawn at random prior to the competition.
17. Hotel information will be provided upon request (hotels will be at the competitor's expense).
18. The application fee may be waived in the case of demonstrated financial need. Please contact Dr. Olsen to be considered.
19. Previous competition winners are ineligible to compete again in the Intermediate Division if they have won twice previously.

UNCSA/Salem College Middle School/High School
2027 Organ Festival and Competition Schedule
Intermediate Division

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(optional) Bonus Masterclass with David Higgs (UNCSA students performing), 7:00-9:00 PM
Crawford Hall, UNCSA

Friday, January 29, 2027 **St. Paul's Episcopal Church Chapel (520 Summit Street)
8 AM – 6:00 PM: Practice on competition instrument
Practice time arranged with each individual competitor. (Local competitors may arrange practice time prior to January 29, but no more than two weeks in advance; an equal amount of practice time will be given to all competitors.)

Workshops will be offered for competitors on Friday (times, TBD). They will include sessions on organ building/maintenance with an introduction to Noack, Op. 171, an Introduction to the Harpsichord, and participants will build a fully functioning pipe organ with an *Orgelkids* kit.
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1:00-2:00 PM: Workshop – Playing Hymns: Inspiring Congregations to Sing
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2:00-3:30 PM: Masterclass with Dr. Olsen
Augsburg Lutheran Church

3:30PM-: Available 30-minute individual lesson times with Dr. Olsen (optional)
Augsburg Lutheran Church