**The 2021 Lois Conboy Memorial Encouragement Award**

The Rhode Island Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (RIAGO) is pleased to announce its **2021 Lois Conboy Encouragement Award**. This prize is open to Rhode Islanders only. If you have already applied to the **Young Artists Award** for this year and you are a Rhode Islander, you will automatically be eligible for this award and do not have to complete a separate application. The Reverend Thomas Conboy, Jr. wanted to memorialize his wife, Lois, by having RIAGO grant awards in her name. Read Lois’ biography in the succeeding pages. It is the Chapter’s desire to support young artists who wish to pursue the organ as a career.

***Eligibility***

The Award is open to any Rhode Island native or resident, age 30 or younger of any education, background or training.

**Required Application Materials**

Digital video recordings may be provided via a private YouTube link, along with all other applications documents in standard email.

1. ***Digital video recording:*** Prepare a high-quality digital video recording on a pipe organ to include the following repertoire in the order listed. Separate movements may be recorded in separate takes; however, there is to be no splicing or editing within movements or compositions. The player, keyboard and pedal board should be as visible as possible throughout with no camera view changes during the performance. The Baroque selection and the Organist’s Choice selection may be recorded on different instruments if desired (please provide specifications for both instruments). Total playing time must not exceed 30 minutes.

**Repertoire Guidelines**: One complete piece (or movement) from Category A and one from Category B. Please keep in mind that not only will your performance be taken into account but so also will be your choice of repertoire; its level of difficulty and appropriateness of style, so please choose carefully.

1. **Baroque.** A piece by Bach, Buxtehude or any other Baroque composer.
2. **Organist’s Choice** from any period or composer. Classical repertoire only, no pop arrangements or easy editions of standard repertoire will be accepted.

2. ***Organ Information Sheet.*** Please include the location, stop list, number of manuals and stops/ranks, and builder of the pipe organ used for your recording.

3. ***Confirmation of Recorded Performance.*** Complete the Confirmation of Recorded Performance Page. It must be signed by the performer and a witness to the performance. If two different organs are used, complete a separate form for both recording sessions. This document with signatures can be scanned and sent with other required materials via email or Dropbox.

4. ***Written Essay.*** Write a brief essay (100-300 words) in which you address the following topic:

The Encouragement Award is created in part to address a decline in the number of young people entering the music profession as organists. How do you envision yourself contributing to the viability of organ performance and/or church music as a sustainable career choice? Are you involved in any such activities at the present time? Please also tell us about your connection to Rhode Island.

5. ***References.*** Two references from current or recent organ teachers, with their contact information (e-mail and telephone).

**Application Checklist**

🞏 Digital Video Recording YouTube ‘Unlisted’ links

🞏 Organ Information Sheet

🞏 Application Form (two pages)

🞏 Confirmation of Recorded Performance

🞏 Written Essay

🞏 References

*PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT MORE THAN THE REQUESTED MATERIALS/DOCUMENTATION*

**Electronic Submission**

Contact the Awards Coordinator at [RIAGO.Awards@gmail.com](mailto:RIAGO.Awards@gmail.com) if you have any questions on uploading your digital video to YouTube and/or making it an ‘Unlisted’ link. The email address can also be used any questions you have with the submission process. When sending your application please put “2021 LOIS CONBOY ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD” in the Subject line.

**Deadline:**

All materials MUST be received at the email address above by May 1, 2021. Incomplete/late applications will not be considered.

**Judging:**

All materials will be reviewed by the Lois Conboy MemorialAwards Committee and a decision will be made on or before June 1, 2021. If, in the opinion of the Committee, no applicant meets the criteria and standards for this award, no award will be given. All applicants will be notified by mail/telephone/email of the results of this award. The judgment of the Committee is final.

**Award:**

One Encouragement Award of $500.00 will be given to the applicant who demonstrates the strongest skills as an organist and musician, with regard to musical sensitivity, playing style, appropriate registration for each piece, and potential for future growth and development. The Encouragement Award winner will be asked to submit a photo and short biography for publicity purposes and will be invited to perform in a RIAGO sponsored recital in the fall of 2021 at a mutually convenient date and time in a venue chosen by RIAGO. In addition, in the future the recipient will be asked to write a brief article for the RIAGO Newsletter, telling us about how the award has helped further your organ pursuits.

**Questions?**

Email [RIAGO.Awards@gmail.com](mailto:RIAGO.Awards@gmail.com) and address your questions to the Awards Coordinator regarding requirements of the Awards or any other questions. Type “2021 LOIS CONBOY ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD” in the Subject line.

**Lois Conboy** started taking organ lessons in Junior High School. She attended Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, focusing on Organ and Choral Conducting. Her education was interrupted upon marrying The Reverend Thomas Conboy, Jr., and was completed by her graduation with a degree in Education from California State University (PA) and a later Master of Education. Moving to Rhode Island in 1972 when Rev. Conboy became Pastor of Calvin Presbyterian Church in Cumberland, Lois oversaw the selection and installation of the new organ in their newly constructed church. She served as volunteer Organist/Choir Director at Calvin for over 15 years, and during those years spent every “vacation Sunday” playing at other churches. After retiring from Calvin, Lois served as interim, and in her last years in RI served as Organist/Choir Director at the Community Church of Providence. Lois loved RIAGO and was active in workshops and conventions, but most of all, she enjoyed and cherished the friendship and fellowship of the Guild.

**~ The 2021 Lois Conboy Memorial Encouragement Award ~**

**APPLICATION FORM**

*Primary Contact Information*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Date |  |
| Address |  |
|  |  |
| City/State/Zip |  |
| Email |  |

*Student Status (check on and complete)*

|  |
| --- |
| * I am a high school student and have been accepted to attend \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the fall of 2021. My intended major is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I expect to graduate in (year) \_\_\_\_\_ with a (degree) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
| * I am enrolled (as of fall 2021) as an undergraduate at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. My major program is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I expect to graduate in (year) \_\_\_\_\_ with a (degree) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
| * I am enrolled (as of fall 2021) as a graduate student at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. My major program is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I expect to graduate in (year) \_\_\_\_\_ with a (degree) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
| * Other pertinent information or clarification: |

*School History (list schools attended, with dates, and names of organ/piano teachers with whom you studied during that time)*

|  |
| --- |
| High School/end date/teacher(s): |
| Undergraduate/end date/teacher(s): |
| Graduate/end date/teacher(s): |

*Repertoire Submitted*

|  |
| --- |
| Baroque: Complete title/Edition Used – |
| Organist’s Choice: Title/Composer/Dates/Edition Used – |

*Personal/Professional References*

|  |
| --- |
| Reference No. 1: Name/Relationship to you/Address/Email/Phone – |
| Reference No. 2: Name/Relationship to you/Address/Email/Phone – |

**~ The 2021 Lois Conboy Memorial Encouragement Award ~**

**CONFIRMATION OF RECORDED PERFORMANCE**

This is to confirm that the submitted recording of the two required organ pieces being sent to The 2021 Lois Conboy MemorialScholarship Awards Committee is an unaltered, representative performance made on

(date) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at (location) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (print name of applicant)

hereby declare and confirm that the submitted recording is an unaltered recording of my own performance that is continuous, and that is unedited within each piece.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature Date

WITNESS

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (print name of witness)

hereby declare and confirm that the submitted recording is an unaltered recording of each piece, the performance that is continuous, and that I was present during the recording session.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature Date

NOTE: If the recordings submitted have been recorded on different dates and locations, please submit this page in multiples as needed.

**~ The 2021 Lois Conboy Memorial Encouragement Award ~**

**WRITTEN ESSAY (100-300 words)**