



# Liturgical Music Proficiency Exam: Organ/Conducting

This exam is roughly equivalent to that administered to an organ "secondary" or "minor" student on the college undergraduate level. It is offered to non-degreed personnel who, nevertheless, by reason of formal study have achieved at least a minimal level of professional competence. It qualifies one for referral to any available church music position in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The performance section of the exam lasts approximately one half-hour, while the written liturgical part of the exam lasts approximately one hour. This exam is given upon request. Please [contact the Office for Divine Worship & Sacraments](#) to arrange for this exam.

Please be aware that throughout this performance examination, the playing should demonstrate appropriate organ technique, including: good phrasing, legato style, pedaling.

## Organ Proficiency Examination

- A. Prepare and play a hymn well, with pedals and independent bass. (chosen from a list to be provided).
- B. Sight read a hymn. The examiners will provide this on the day of the exam itself.
- C. Play an anthem accompaniment (chosen from a list to be provided).
- D. Play a responsorial psalm (chosen from a list to be provided). A cantor will be provided.
- E. Play a set of Eucharistic acclamations: Holy, Mystery of Faith, Amen (chosen from a list to be provided)
- F. A good knowledge of basic organ registration (pipe), construction, tonal design, and console function and control.

G. The preparation and performance of an organ work of the difficulty of one of the Bach "Eight Little Preludes and Fugues" or any of the organ works of Mendelssohn (candidate's choice.)

H. Provide an accompaniment for a melody from chord markings. (The melody will be sent prior to the examination)

## Conducting Examination

Demonstrate Basic Conducting (chosen from a list of choral titles to be provided; a quartet of singers will be provided)

## Liturgy Examination

A written exam in liturgy will also be required for this certification. It may be taken separately, but usually given on the same date as the organ playing examination. This exam requires a general knowledge of Roman Catholic Worship and the ability to prepare a complete order of service for the celebration of the Eucharist by making competent choices from the available options. The two liturgies that must be planned will be sent in advance of the written examination.

Knowledge of the following Liturgical Documents is required for the written exam:

*The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* (December, 1963)

*The General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (2011)

*General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar* (1969)

*Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship* (November 2007)

*Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture and Worship* (November 2000)

All these documents can be found in the LTP Publication, *The Liturgy Documents, Vol. 1 5<sup>th</sup> ed.* available through the ODWS.