



Liturgical Music Proficiency Exam: Piano/Conducting

Recognizing that many musicians in the Archdiocese are more familiar with piano / keyboard instruments rather than the organ, and that much of newer musical repertoire is written for piano/keyboard, it has become necessary to develop additional Archdiocesan standards for piano and keyboard.

This exam is roughly equivalent to a piano "secondary" or "minor" 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 last approximately one half-hour, while the written liturgical part of the exam lasts approximately one hour.

Please be aware that throughout this performance examination, the playing should demonstrate appropriate piano technique, including: phrasing, use of pedals, and variation in dynamics.

This exam is given on request. Please [contact the Office for Divine Worship & Sacraments](#) to arrange for this exam.

Piano Proficiency Examination

- A. Prepare and play a hymn well (chosen from a list to be provided).
- B. Sight read a hymn or contemporary composition of moderate difficulty arranged for piano. This will be given on the day of the exam.
- 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. The preparation and performance of a piece of piano literature (chosen

from a list to be provided)

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

Conducting Examination

Demonstration of 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 is normally given on the same date as the piano/keyboard performance part of the exam. 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 Sunday liturgies that must be planned will be given in advance.

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 5th ed.* available through the ODWS.

www.catholicaoc.org/worship