

**Liturgy Alive:
University of Notre Dame Folk Choir Composition Contest 2019**



With this competition, the Folk Choir is seeking new choral works for SATB choir and congregation. We are looking specifically for music that serves the Catholic liturgy, and will be drawing on texts from the propers of the Mass as found in the *Graduale Romanum*. The ideal piece will creatively and clearly incorporate sections for the congregation and choir to sing together and sections for the SATB choir only. Forms that could be possibilities are verse/antiphon settings and chorale-Fantasia.

About the choir

The Folk Choir serves the University of Notre Dame as one of its principal liturgical choirs, singing every Sunday during the academic year at the 11:45 A.M. liturgy in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Members of the choir come from a variety of academic disciplines, but are brought together by a shared love of music and a desire to practice, explore, and share their faith. Through participation in the choir, members offer themselves as gifts to one another, and to the congregations for whom they sing. They share their vocal and instrumental gifts, as well as their individual personalities, to create a life-giving, supportive family. The experience with the Folk Choir bears witness to the love, grace, and lasting joy that God calls us to share with one another. Following the example of Blessed Basil Moreau, the choir aims to unify the hearts and minds of both our members and the congregations we serve through our song. The Folk Choir has nine albums of their music as well as a publishing series with World Library Publications entitled "Songs of the Notre Dame Folk Choir". More information can be found at our [website](#), and you can hear several examples of the choir singing on our [Youtube channel](#).

Text

The composer may choose to set one (or more) of the following offertory antiphons for submission. The complete text of the antiphon must appear at least once. The setting may be in English, Spanish, or any combination of the two. If English is used, alternate translations may be employed. If the composer also enters the University of Notre Dame Women's Choir Composition Contest, he or she may not submit a re-working of his or her entry for the University of Notre Dame Folk Choir Composition Competition.

Option 1: Offertory for the 4th Sunday of Lent ("Laetare Sunday") -Psalm 134: 3,6

*Praise the Lord, for he is loving;
sing in honour of his name, for he is gracious.
He has accomplished whatever he resolved to
do in heaven and on earth.*

(Optional Psalm verses [here](#))

Option 2: Offertory for the 2nd Sunday of Easter ("Divine Mercy Sunday") -Matthew 28: 2, 5, 6

*The Angel of the Lord came down from heaven
And said to the woman:
"The One whom you seek has risen,
as he said he would, alleluia."*

(Optional verses from Matthew 28:7-10)

Voicing

The choral forces for the composition may include SATB choir with limited instances of *divisi* up to 8 parts, SSAATTBB.

Accompaniment

The composition must include pipe organ accompaniment. For reference, the specifications the Murdy Family Organ at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart may be found [here](#). Flexible organ registrations are preferred to accommodate the use of other organs.

Optional additional instrumentation

The composition must work with organ accompaniment alone, but preference will be given to pieces that include optional instruments (*ad lib*) in addition to the organ. The following instruments may be used in any combination: strings (maximum 2 violins, viola and cello), flute and percussion.

Length of piece

The winning piece will serve as a part of the liturgy of the Catholic Mass. It must be around 3-5 minutes in length to comfortably fit within the Preparation Rite of the Catholic Mass.

Eligibility(copied from NDCC website)

All United States residents in the 50 states over the age of 18 are eligible to enter the competition. Entry is free of charge.

The following individuals are not eligible: employees, collaborators, directors, officers and contractors of the Sponsor, its advertising, fulfillment and public relations agencies and any other agencies involved in the administration, development and fulfillment of this Contest, and the immediate family members and those living in the same households of each.

Submissions and format

Each entry must be typeset using a music software program such as Finale or Sibelius. A PDF of the score along with an MP3 recording should be sent to Missy DeClercq at mdeclercq@nd.edu. The email subject line should read "FC Composition Contest 2019." Your name should NOT appear on the score itself since a blind jury will judge the competition. The MP3 recording may be an informal play-through at the piano/organ or midi recording. It does NOT need to be an actual performance of the piece with a choir.

The winning composition must be dedicated to the Notre Dame Folk Choir with the text, "Commissioned by the Notre Dame Folk Choir; Dr. J.J. Wright, Director."

Deadline

Entries will be accepted between January 18, 2019 and midnight on February 1, 2019. The winner will be announced by February 15, 2019.

Prizes

Up to three prizes may be awarded:

- 1st prize: \$2,000
- 2nd prize: \$1,000
- 3rd prize: \$500

The winning entry/entries will be considered for performance by the Folk Choir during Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame. Additionally, the work will be considered for performances in concerts, tours, and recording projects.

Evaluation

The winner will be selected by a panel of judges of church musicians from the University of Notre Dame . Selection criteria will include: artistic merit, singability, appropriateness for use within the Catholic Mass, creativity, and similar criteria.

Judges

- Dr. Mark Doerries, *Artistic Director of the University of Notre Dame Children's Choir*
- Dr. Patrick Kronner, *Director of the University of Notre Dame Women's Liturgical Choir, Director of the University of Notre Dame Community Choir*
- Dr. JJ Wright, *Director of the University of Notre Dame Folk Choir*