

Liturgy Alive:

University of Notre Dame Women's Liturgical Choir Composition Commission Competition 2019

With this competition, the Women's Liturgical Choir aims to encourage composers to write new works for the glory of God to be sung by women's voices. We are looking specifically for music that serves the Catholic liturgy, and therefore will be drawing on texts from the propers of the Mass as found in the *Graduale Romanum*.



About the choir

The Notre Dame Women's Liturgical Choir is comprised of 35 women who perform a varied repertoire of the highest quality, including Gregorian chant, Renaissance polyphony, and music from the 18th through 21st century. The choir is responsible for providing music at the Saturday Vigil Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. More information about the choir can be found on our [website](#), [facebook page](#), and our [youtube channel](#). Our latest CD, "Cantica" (2016), can be found [here](#).

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 Latin, English, or a combination of the two. If English is used, alternate translations may be employed. If the composer also enters the University of Notre Dame Folk Choir Composition Commission Competition, he or she may not submit a re-working of his or her entry for the University of Notre Dame Women's Liturgical Choir Composition Commission Competition.

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

Laudate Dominum, quia benignus est:	<i>Praise the Lord, for he is loving;</i>
psallite nomini eius, quoniam suavis est.	<i>sing in honour of his name, for he is gracious.</i>
Omnia quae cumque voluit,	<i>He has accomplished whatever he resolved to</i>
fecit in caelo et in terra.	<i>do in heaven and on earth.</i>

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

Angelus Domini descendit de caelo,	<i>The Angel of the Lord came down from heaven</i>
Et dixit mulieribus:	<i>And said to the woman:</i>
Quem quaeritis, surrexit,	<i>“The One whom you seek has risen,</i>
Sicut dixit, alleluia.	<i>as he said he would, alleluia.”</i>

Voicing

The choral forces for the composition may include 2 parts (soprano/alto) or 3 parts (soprano, mezzo-soprano, alto). Limited instances of *divisi* may occur if necessary.

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 it may also include other 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, brass (maximum 2 trumpets, french horn, trombone, tuba), and timpani. The maximum number of additional (optional) instruments to be employed is 6.

Difficulty level/style

For reference, below is an list of several pieces from the WLC repertoire. This should be used as a guide for both the general style and difficulty level for composition entries. (Entries of a simpler level of difficulty are also acceptable.)

Durufilé, Maurice: *Tota pulchra es*, Op. 10

Gevaert, François-Auguste: *L’Oiseau Vigilant; O Filii et Filiae*

Haydn, Johann Michael: *De Profundis* from “*Vesperae Pro Festo Sancti Innocentium*”

Howells, Herbert: *My Eyes for Beauty Pine; Hills of the North*

Lowry (arr. John Scott): *How Can I Keep from Singing?*

Mendelssohn, Felix: *Veni, Domine*

Owolabi, Kola: *Prayer of St. Francis*

Rheinberger, Josef Gabriel: *Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen*, Op. 35; *3 Latin Hymns*, Op. 96;
6 Hymns, Op. 118

Schütz, Heinrich: *Der Herr ist gross*

Williams, Vernon: *Ave Maria*

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 in order to comfortably fit within the Preparation Rite of the Catholic Mass.

Eligibility

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, score format, and recording

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 "WLC Composition Commission Competition 2019." Your name should NOT appear on the score itself since a blind jury will judge the competition. Please include your name and contact information in the body of the email.

The MP3 recording may be an informal play-through at the piano/organ or midi recording produced by a music software program. 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 Women's Liturgical Choir with the text, "Commissioned by the Notre Dame Women's Liturgical Choir; Dr. Patrick Kronner, Director."

Deadline

Entries will be accepted between 8:00 AM EST on August 15, 2018 and 11:59 PM EST on January 31, 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 have their work sung by the Women's Liturgical Choir during Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame, and 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 and St. Mary's College. Selection criteria will include: artistic merit, singability, appropriateness for use within the Catholic Mass, creativity, and similar criteria.

Judges

- Dr. Andrew McShane, *Director of the University of Notre Dame Liturgical Choir*
- Dr. Nancy Menk, *Chair and Professor of Music, St. Mary's College; Director of the St. Mary's College Women'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*