

MUSIC IN A SMALL CHURCH – SYNOD 2024 WORKSHOP

Music in Church

Music of the church reinforces the theology and liturgy of the church. St. Augustine wrote “He who sings prays twice”. We find in Holy Scripture myriads of exhortations to “sing to the Lord.” Many of these are found in the Psalms, but St. Paul, himself exhorts the Ephesians to

“..speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Eph 5:19)

We should not pick from modern and unapproved sources because the theology may not track with us. Arius spread his heresy (Christ not of equal divinity with God the Father) through songs that sailors could easily remember which spread very quickly. This exists today in modern music including some Christian music and modern hymnals (i.e. gender-neutral terms, various heresies, etc...).

ACA Canons

- The 1940 Hymnal is the approved standard according to the Canons of the Church. The parish priest, under the direction of the bishop, has sole authority over music and worship. Use of hymns outside of the 1940 should be approved by the parish priest.

TOOL TIP: <https://hymnary.org/hymnal/HPEC1940>

Hymn Selection

- Appropriate for the liturgical season (see pg. 804 Liturgical Index in the hymnal and pp. 830-831 in the Hymnal Supplement.
- Easy to sing and well known
- Introduce no more than one (1) new hymn per Sunday service
- Hymn selection is always to be approved by the parish priest

Mass Setting

The Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus and Agnus Dei have a variety of settings in the 1940 Hymnal.

1. Willan – most commonly used in the G3 has an uplifting melody (Healey Willan, an English & Canadian composer 1880-1968). #710-713, #797
2. Merbecke – common for Lent, Advent and penitential periods (John Merbeck, an English composer 1510-1585). #701-707, #796
3. Plainsong – very ancient but has fallen from use, ex. Our Father. #719-724, #798

For fun, listen to these recordings:

Nicene Creed: <https://youtu.be/UcD6JWij0W0>

Fourth Communion Service Missa Marialis:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJbxLPs_JBs

Other parts of the Mass may be sung by the priest, cantor, choir or congregation. This is not a Roman Catholic innovation. Chanting the propers has always been done from very ancient times. The practice comes from the chant done in the Jewish synagogues and at the Temple at the time of Christ (and before). The word “psalm” literally means “song” or “hymn”.

- The Mass propers and setting changes with the liturgical season
- Major propers are done by the priest such as the Sursum corda “Lift up your heart..”
- Minor propers are done by a cantor or choir, otherwise by the priest. These consist of the introit, gradual, alleluia or tract, sequence, offertory, post-communion.

TOOL TIP: The ADEUS standard music for minor propers is according to the “English Gradual” Blue book from RSCM the English Gradual Part II – The Proper ISBN 0-85402-117-5 . Available on Amazon: <https://a.co/d/aJ5qAwv>

Chant Style

There are 3 chant styles common in traditional Anglican parishes: Plainsong, Gregorian, Anglican Chant. Oftentimes parishioners, and even musicians, will confuse these three. At the time of the separation of the English Church from Rome, Plainsong and Gregorian were used widely in Brittain. Anglican Chant was developed post separation and is thusly uniquely Anglican.

1. **Plainsong Chant** – St. Dunstan plain song psalter with square notes. It is an ancient chant that takes its roots in the chant of the synagogue. Plainsong takes some time to master as the tones are more ancient than our ear is accustomed to hearing.
2. **Gregorian Chant** – developed between the ancient period and the Middle Ages, and attributed to St. Gregory the Great. It is simple and easy to teach. Almost unlimited resources on the internet to learn Gregorian Chant.
3. **Anglican Chant** - a polyphonic form of plainsong. It is distinct from plainchant or Gregorian chant in that it has harmonizations – a choir or congregation can chant together in four-part harmony. Thus, it utilizes the melodic simplicity of plainchant and the harmonic beauty of English hymnody. Anglican chant requires a mastery of plainsong, and a reasonably good choir.

Instrumental Accompaniment

1. Organist – cost ranges \$150-\$250 per service. If there is a long-term contract, it may be possible to negotiate a lower cost. How to find one:
 - a. American Guild of Organists <https://www.agohq.org/> for full time, part time and substitutes. The national website (agohq.org) charges a fee place an ad. Local chapters on the other hand are generally free.
 - b. Contact local college music dept
 - c. Contact local musical instrument & music lessons business
 - d. Facebook, NextDoor advertisement
 - e. Word of mouth among parishioners
2. Keyboard with an organ setting. It is easier to find someone who plays the piano/keyboard and the cost is usually less. Most keyboards can be connected to a sound amplifier to give the sense of an organ playing.
3. MP3 – canned accompaniment which goes through the keyboard (in organ setting) or a laptop and external speakers. Someone in your parish would need to operate the device. With a little practice it is easy to operate.
 - a. Digital hymn box – there is one Synthia box available from the ACA that is free (just pay for shipping) already programmed with the 1940 hymnal. Some training is required. Contact Sabrina Bower for details.
 - b. <http://digitalhymnal.net/> They have 3 different devices that range in cost and complexity.
 - c. <https://hymnary.org/hymnal/HPEC1940> Free recordings. Can control tempo. No intro, manually replay for each verse

- d. <https://www.hymnalplus.com/> \$2,749 connects to an amplification system. Simulates pipe organ. Can adjust # verses, pitch, tempo, break add intro.



- e. <https://www.hymncds.com/> £39 -299 - offers audio CD and MP3 downloads ; real pipe organ recordings by John Keys
- f. https://www.smallchurchmusic.com/Display_HymnBooks-New.php?TY=4-The1940Hymnal public domain MP3 files may be downloaded for free ; pipe organ recordings by the late Clyde McLennan. If you want to change tempo and pitch, use a free program **Audacity** version 2. A professional software, **Song Surgeon**, is an inexpensive solution if you want to make more complex changes.
4. Acapella – choose easy hymns that are known. Begin on key (a pitch pipe only costs \$10) in a range that most are comfortable singing and be aware of the tempo. It only takes one strong singer to help carry the whole congregation.

Restrictions on the use of copyrighted music

The exception that applies to the use of copyrighted music performed in a religious worship service does not apply to streaming church services. Without a license from the copyright owner, churches are not allowed to:

- Broadcast online (or otherwise) the performance of copyrighted music.
- Record the performance of copyrighted music.

Facebook is likely to flag the use of copyrighted content in a church's streamed service and remove the video from its page. Copyright infringement companies scour the internet for

violators and demand compensation to the artist or owner of the music. You want to avoid this costly mistake. **There are some hymns in the 1940 hymnal which are copyrighted.**

If your church has a license agreement with a streaming service provider, be sure to check the agreement so you know what is and is not covered in the license.

Onelicense.net offers annual licenses. Pricing is based on the weekly attendance.

Category	Average Weekly Attendance	Cost	with Podcast / Streaming
A	0 to 25	120.00 USD	+ 70.00 USD
B	26 to 100	210.00 USD	+ 80.00 USD
C	101 to 200	315.00 USD	+ 110.00 USD

The number of views of each video is limited to three times the size of your average weekly attendance category. For example, if your license is set for Category B (26-100 average weekly attendance), you are permitted to have up to 300 video views per week.

The podcast / stream must include the following words at the end of the service, in the video description, or on the website containing a link to the podcast / live stream:

"Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-000000. All rights reserved." Please include your own license number.

How do I encourage my congregation to sing?

1. Educate. "Liturgy" mean "liturgia" the common work of people. It is not a performance of the priest like in Roman rites but the work of prayer and worship by the congregation. This is why the priest faces the altar. He is leading the congregation in prayer and worship. Congregational participation allows the words of the Mass, steeped in Scripture, to seep into them. How often has a hymn been stuck in our mind days after Mass?
2. Do nothing quickly. Make changes/introduce new things slowly and in consultation and agreement with your priest.
3. Find your best singers who can lead the congregation.
4. A choir can be formed with as few as 2-3 persons. They will help lead the congregation in singing the Mass setting and the hymns. Solos or performance

pieces may be incorporated such as a communion anthem. But be careful about too many solos – it can become an issue of the sin of pride.

5. Consider hiring a singer to help lead. Sometimes in a small church, one semi-professional singer to keep the singing on track makes a huge difference.

Offer God your best and do it excellent. If it's MP3 accompaniment, do it excellently. If it's keyboard, do it excellently. Evaluate the sound quality (amp/speaker system). Listen to the sound sitting in different sections of your church space (front, back, middle). Is it too loud or soft? Is the tempo too fast or slow for the congregants? If you broadcast your service, listen to how the music sounds as well as the lessons, the homily, and the priest. How does it sound to your viewers?

Lacking Resources?

Reach out to the ADEUS office 706-530-0690 if your parish is in need of hymnals, audio equipment, specific sheet music, choir apparel -or- if your parish has any of these items to donate. We can connect you with organists and experienced choristers within our diocese who will be happy to share their knowledge and provide guidance as your parish expands its music program.

Music has a beautiful way of making God's word remain in our hearts.

It can help us to ponder it as Mary did (e.g., Luke 2:19)