

BCC FAQ

1. **What is the BCC?** The BCC is a certification that acknowledges that the candidate has fulfilled the minimum requirements for serving as a competent cantor, that is, leading psalms and litanies, and demonstrating basic knowledge about music and the liturgy. It is also the first and essential step toward the two more advanced certificates, the Intermediate and the Cantor Colleague Certificates.
2. **Why do I need the BCC?** The BCC is a spiritual journey; learning experience. It is hoped that the candidate receives feedback of encouragement and assistance as they grow to continually improve their skills and spirituality. Cantors have found the certificate valuable as they move from place to place around the country and useful when they are faced with the possibility of experiencing their liturgical function in a parish where their skill level is unknown. It helps the resident music director and/or pastor determine that the cantor has a competent level of understanding of music and liturgy compared to other cantors in the nation with the (BCC) certification.
3. **What exactly is included in the exam?** The exam is in two parts, written and vocal testing.

The vocal testing consists of the singing of two psalms, a chant style and a through-composed style from the approved list on the application form. A Kyrie, including any invocations attached to the setting and a Lamb of God Litany; should be done as the litanies.

Ear training exercises are three sets of intervals played on the piano or organ that the candidate is required to sing back accurately and must be recorded for adjudication.

The written exam is a series of questions dealing with musical knowledge and the liturgy.

A passing score of 70% or higher must be achieved on both the written and vocal portion.
5. **May I transpose the music for the psalms and/or litanies?** We do not encourage such practice, however, if a cantor chooses to do so, the cantor and the proctor should inform the BCC administrator of the plan so that the adjudicators can be informed of the change.
6. **What do I need to know to pass the written exam?** There are questions in the written portion from the Sing to the Lord liturgical document which can be located on the www.npm.org website with basic test of musical knowledge. The liturgy section of the test will be easy to pass if you attend Mass weekly.
7. **Who are the adjudicators?** The adjudicators are current and former members of the Steering Committee for Cantors and other nationally and regionally known cantors.

8. **Is there a cost for this exam?** The exam requires a non-refundable \$25.00 fee to be paid to the national office of NPM.

9. **Is there a specific amount of time to complete this process?**

You have a year to complete all portions of this certification.

10. **What if I do not pass a portion of the exam?**

You may retake any portion of the examination that you have not score 70% or higher within one year of application. Most often if a person has difficulty with a section of the certification a local mentor is suggestion for assistance before retakes are given.

11. **Who may I talk to if I still have questions?**

Please contact Rosemarie Gondek phone number 561-414-4694. www.cantor.certifications@gmail.com