

Intermediate Cantor Certificate Essay Guide

1st Essay: The Role of the Responsorial Psalm in the Liturgy of the Word

1. Select a specific Sunday in Ordinary Time (for example, the 17th Sunday, Year B). Prayerfully reflect on the texts of the first reading, the gospel reading, and the psalm, exploring the connections between and among these texts.
 - a) How is the responsorial psalm related to the first reading?
 - b) How is it related to the gospel reading?
 - c) What is the responsorial psalm doing?
 - How is the psalm our response to the word God is speaking to us in the first reading? To the word Christ is speaking to us in the gospel proclamation?
 - Who is the responsorial psalm calling us, the Church, to be on this particular Sunday of the liturgical year?
2. Write a 1-2 page essay sharing your reflections. What new insights have you gained? What do these insights confirm for you? What challenges do they raise for you?
3. At the beginning or end of your essay, identify the resources you used from the list given below. Additionally, cite references within the text of the essay where applicable. Here is an example of a citation within the text: This psalm is an example of a psalm of confidence, with emphasis that God can and will protect the faithful (Nowell, 1997).

2nd Essay: The Ministry and the Spirituality of the Psalmist

1. Applying the insights you gained from reflecting on the role of the responsorial psalm
 - a) reflect on the role of the psalmist in singing the responsorial psalm. Beyond singing words, what is the psalmist really doing? How can you as psalmist best prepare yourself to fulfill this ministry?
 - b) reflect on the spirituality of the psalmist. Who is the psalm calling you, the psalmist, to be on this particular Sunday of the liturgical year? Who is the psalm calling you to be in your daily living this week?
2. Write a 1-2 page essay sharing your reflections. What new insights have you gained? What do these insights confirm for you? What challenges do they raise for you?
3. At the beginning or end of your essay, identify the resources you used from the list given below. Additionally, cite references within the text of the essay where applicable (see example given at #3 above).

Required reading:

Relevant sections of The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (found in the resources list under the Cantor Section of the NPM website [www.npm.org])

Relevant sections of *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship* (found in the resources list under the Cantor Section of the NPM website [www.npm.org])

Additional recommended resources:

Guide for Cantors, by Jennifer Kerr Breedlove and Paul Turner (Chicago; Liturgy Training Publications, 2007)

Handbook for Cantors, rev. ed, by Diana Kodner (Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1997)

Living Liturgy for Cantors, by Kathleen Harmon, Joyce Zimmerman, et al. (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, annual)

Seven Sessions: The NPM Study Guide to Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship, by J. Michael McMahon, Paul Colloton, OP, and Gordon E. Truitt (NPM Publications, 2009)

Sing a New Song: the Psalms in the Sunday Lectionary, by Irene Nowell (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1993)

Singing Our Worship: A Pastoral Musician's Guide to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal 2000, rev. ed., by J. Michael McMahon (NPM Publications, 2007)

The Ministry of Cantors, by Kathleen Harmon (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2004)

The Work of the Cantor: Proclaimer of the Word, Leader of Prayer, by Joe Simmons (Franklin Park, IL: World Library Publications, 2008)