National Association of Pastoral Musicians  
Cantor Colleague Certificate Study Guide  
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70% is required to pass all sections.

Section A

Musical Knowledge and Skills

Component I: Music Theory Exam

This written exam consists of eight (8) questions and covers the basics of music theory. The test will be emailed to you and you will be given a suggested time for the test to be returned—on average, 5 days. This test is open book/notebook/iPad.

1. You will be shown seven key signatures and will be asked to identify the Major and relative minor keys for each of the key signatures shown. The keys will be shown in either the G (treble) clef or the F (bass) clef.

2. You will identify major and minor scales. You will identify the location of half steps in both major, and natural minor scales. Then you will actually construct two major and two minor scales, using the notes provided and inserting the required sharps or flats.

3. You will identify intervals by correctly inserting a note above the provided note and inserting any necessary sharps, flats or natural signs. There are eight intervals to provide and again they will be in either the G or F clefs.

4. You are provided with the name of a key. You must tell us how many sharps or flats are in that key and identify them- Example D Major = 2 sharps, F# and C#

5. You will be shown ten musical symbols to identify. If there are musical notes in the example- you will be identifying the symbol that accompanies the notes, not the notes themselves.
6. You will be identifying musical terms dealing with the manner in which a musical composition is to be played or sung. All of the terms are common Italian terms found in musical compositions. Example: accelerando – to speed up.

7. Is a matching exercise. **Match the words or phrases dealing with non-harmonic tones** to the definitions in the second column. There are five of these.

8. Requires you to identify time signatures. You will be given three short musical phrases and you are to determine the time signature from the rhythmic pattern.

Suggested resources for Music Theory Exam, if needed: [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net)

Just the Facts Music Theory Workbooks (Books 5-9, Music Bag Press)

**Component II: Singing**

1. Sing 2 psalms – one from List A and one from List B (Repertoire list below)
2. Sight sing a Gospel Acclamation and Responsorial Psalm given at the exam time. Applicants will have 1 minute to prepare, scale and tonic will be provided
3. Sing an Easter, Pentecost or Corpus Christi sequence (applicant’s choice)

**CCC Psalm Repertoire List**

Responsorial Psalms: **IMPORTANT: All music is to be chosen from this Examination Repertoire List. Select one psalm from List A and one psalm from List B.**

Responsorial Psalms:

**List A (Chant)**
- **Salmó 22: El Señor Es Mi Pastor.** Jack Miffleton (OCP, 89029—Luz Perpetua).
- **Psalm 33: The Earth is Full of the Goodness** (from *Psalms for the Easter Vigil/Gospel Acclamation for the Easter Vigil*). James Scavone (WLP, 006266).
- **Psalm 34: Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord.** Kevin Keil (OCP, 30100782).
- **Psalm 45: Alleluia Psalm** (from *By Flowing Waters*). Paul Ford (LP, 359).
- **Salmó 62: Mi Alma Está Sedienta/Psalm 63: My Soul Is Thirsting.** Bob Hurd (OCP, 88983—Luz Perpetua).
- **Psalm 90: In Every Age** (from *Lectionary Psalms*). Michel Guimont. (GIA)
- **Psalm 113: Blessed Be the Name of the Lord** (from *Thanksgiving Psalms*). Luke Mayernik (OCP, 30101909).
- **Psalm 133 (134): In the Silent Hours of Night.** Howard Hughes (GIA, G-3377).
- **Sequence for the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, “Ecce Panis Angelorum. Graduale Simplex, page 205.**

**List B (Through Composed)**
- **Psalm 42: As the Deer Longs for Running Water.** Richard Siegel (WLP, 006209).
- **Psalm 47: God Mounts His Throne to Shouts of Joy.** J. Michael Joncas (WLP, 01752-L).
- **Psalm 122: Let Us Go Rejoicing.** Rawn Harbor (OCP, 20912).
- **Psalm 25: To You, O Lord** (from *Three Seasonal Psalms for Advent*). Janèt Sullivan Whitaker (OCP, 88044).
- **Psalm 96: Christmas Mass at Midnight.** Howard Hughes (GIA, G-2026).
- **Psalm 115 (116): What Return Can I Make to the Lord.** Charles E. Conley (GIA, G-
**SECTION B**

**Liturical Knowledge**

Complete a written exam on church music and liturgy. This test will be emailed to all applicants on the specified dates. See [http://www.npm.org/Sections/Cantor/cantorcertification.htm](http://www.npm.org/Sections/Cantor/cantorcertification.htm) for more information. Each applicant will have 24 hours to complete the test and email it back. Two questions will be given from each component from which the candidate will answer one. Upon application submission, a mentor will be assigned to help guide the candidate in their preparation.

**Component I: Sunday Celebration of the Eucharist**

- **Introductory Rites**
- **Liturgy of the Word**
- **Liturgy of the Eucharist**
- **Concluding Rite**

The liturgy committee of your parish has asked you to help them examine the musical elements in the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist. Take each of the four parts of the liturgy listed above, and help them to study and evaluate the musical elements of each part of the Eucharistic liturgy. Make use of appropriate texts from the *Roman Missal* and *Lectionary for Mass*, as well as pertinent liturgical documents. Take into account the following aspects for each of the four parts of the liturgy:

- Relationship of Music to Ritual Action and Text
- Musical Form
- Participation of the Assembly
- Role of Priest, Deacon, Psalmist, Choir, Cantor, Instrumentalists, Director

**Component II: Seasons of the Liturgical Year**

- **Advent**
- **Christmas Season**
- **Lent**
Component III: Rites of the Church

- Easter Vigil with Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation
- Celebration of Infant Baptism at Sunday Mass
- Celebration of Baptism Outside of Mass
- Celebration of First Eucharist (at Sunday Mass)
- Anointing of the Sick at Sunday Mass
- Communal Penance Celebration (Form 2) during Advent or Lent
- Celebration of Marriage during Mass
- Celebration of Marriage between a Catholic and an Unbaptized Person
- Funeral Rites: Vigil, Funeral Liturgy, Committal
- Confirmation

Be prepared to contribute to the preparation of the liturgy for each of the above situations, taking into consideration the following questions:
1. What are the most important musical elements of the rite: acclamations, processional songs, blessing prayers, dialogues, responses? How are these tied to the major ritual actions?
2. What would be appropriate choices for psalms, hymns and songs for this rite?
3. How could choral and instrumental music be used to support the celebration of the rite?

Suggested Reading to prepare for the Liturgical Knowledge exam

- Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Sacrosanctum Concilium (1963)
- Musicam Sacram (1967)
- Directory for Masses with Children (1973)
- General Instruction of the Roman Missal (Current English Translation Promulgated for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, November 27, 2011)
- Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship (NPM, 2007)
- The Rites of the Catholic Church, Vol. 1 (The Liturgical Press, 1991)
Candidates should also be familiar with the following books available from NPM Publications.

- *Seven Sessions: The NPM Study Guide to Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*
- *Singing the Year of Grace*

Candidates will also find it beneficial to refer to the Lectionary and to have access to a hymnal of their choice, which has Mass settings, hymns, and psalms.

## Section C

### Applied Knowledge

**Component I: Biblical Knowledge of the Psalms**

The applicant will be able to explain the biblical and liturgical background, and the genre of each psalm he or she has chosen to proclaim as part of the singing exam. The applicant will be expected to discuss how each psalm relates to the readings for the Sunday on which it occurs in the Lectionary for Mass. This component of the exam will be given with the written music theory exam outlined in Section A, component I. *This test is open book/notebook/iPad.*

**Component II: Cantor as Minister**

Answer a question about the cantor as minister. The Colleague Certificate Coordinator will contact you to arrange a time to discuss the question, either in person or over the phone.