

# NPM Cantor Colleague Certificate Study Guide

Revised January 2020

Testing for the **Cantor Colleague Certificate** consists of three components, *each* of which must have a passing score of 70%.

## Section 1 - Vocal Technique and Skills

The candidate will sing the following:

- Two responsorial psalms from the lists provided (no substitutions): one setting chosen from List A (chant) and one chosen from List B (melodic)
- The Sequence for Easter, Pentecost or Corpus Christi
- A short Gospel acclamation and a chant psalm provided for sight-singing

### Responsorial Psalms List A (Chant)

- **Salmo 22: El Señor Es Mi Pastor.** Jack Miffleton (OCP).
- **Psalm 30 (31): Father, I Put My Life In Your Hands.** Howard Hughes (GIA).
- **Psalm 33: The Earth is Full of the Goodness** (from *Psalms for the Easter Vigil/Gospel Acclamation for the Easter Vigil*). James Scavone (WLP)
- **Psalm 34: Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord.** Kevin Keil (OCP)
- **Psalm 45: Alleluia Psalm** (from *By Flowing Waters*). Paul Ford (LP)
- **Salmo 62: Mi Alma Está Sedienta/Psalm 63: My Soul Is Thirsting.** Bob Hurd (OCP)
- **Psalm 90: In Every Age** (from *Lectionary Psalms*). Michel Guimont. (GIA)
- **Psalm 104: Lord, Send Out Your Spirit,** James Scavone (WLP).
- **Psalm 113: Blessed Be the Name of the Lord.** Luke Mayernik (OCP).
- **Psalm 133 (134): In the Silent Hours of Night.** Howard Hughes (GIA).

### Responsorial Psalms List B (Melodic)

- **Psalm 25: To You, O Lord,** Janèt Sullivan Whitaker (OCP).
- **Salmo 33: Gusten y Veán Qué Bueno Es el Señor.** Lourdes Montgomery (OCP)
- **Psalm 42: As the Deer Longs for Running Water.** Richard Siegel (WLP)
- **Psalm 47: God Mounts His Throne to Shouts of Joy.** J. Michael Joncas (WLP)
- **Salmo 50: Misericordia, Señor/Psalm 51: Show Us Your Mercy, O Lord.** Bob Hurd (OCP).
- **Psalm 96: Christmas Mass at Midnight.** Howard Hughes (GIA).
- **Psalm 115 (116): What Return Can I Make to the Lord.** Charles E. Conley (GIA).
- **Psalm 122: Let Us Go Rejoicing.** Rawn Harbor (OCP)

## Section 2 -Applied Knowledge

The candidate will complete a written test demonstrating familiarity with intermediate applied concepts in music theory and an understanding of the ministry of the cantor/psalmist. Access to notes and iPad is permitted. The test will include the following:

- a) Identification of **major and relative minor keys** as indicated by key signatures shown in treble or bass clef
- b) Identification of **major and minor scales, location of half steps in both major and natural minor scales** and **construction of two major and two minor scales**
- c) Construction of **specified intervals** by adding the correct note above the printed note
- d) Identification of **common musical symbols**
- e) Identification and explanation of **common musical terms**
- f) Identification of **time signatures** from the rhythmic pattern shown in short musical phrases
- g) Explanation of the ministerial role and responsibilities of the cantor/psalmist in the liturgy

A suggested theory resource for this section is [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net) which provides sequential lessons and levels of exercises and drills.

## Section 3 - Liturgical Knowledge

The candidate will complete a written exam on liturgy and its musical components. The test is administered online twice each year, in mid-January and mid-June. Successful completion of the exam requires extensive study and preparation over a period of several weeks. Candidates will be assigned a mentor to assist them in this process.

This test is e-mailed on the specified dates at a time requested by the candidate. It must be completed and returned within 24 hours. The rubric used for scoring this exam is provided as a helpful guideline during the preparation and study period. There are three sections as listed below. Two choices are offered in each section, and the candidate chooses one of the two for completion.

### **Sunday Celebration of the Eucharist**

### **Seasons of the Liturgical Year**

### **Rites of the Church**

More specific information and suggested resources will be provided when mentors are assigned.