



NPM INTERMEDIATE CANTOR CERTIFICATE (ICC) STUDY GUIDE - Updated 2022

This Study Guide will walk you through all portions of the exam. The study guide correlates with the ICC application and provides additional detail.

I. SERVICE MUSIC

- a. You will sing and lead two responsorial psalms. (See List A and List B on the application.)
- b. You will sing and lead a self-selected, published *Gloria*.
- c. You will sing a chanted Alleluia (Mode VI), sung *a capella* with a verse. See examples on You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrlcX1BNIp8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7soRboI9GE>

- d. You will sight sing a responsorial psalm or hymn given at the adjudication (either from Proctor or from Onsite Adjudicator)

II. TEACHING MUSIC You will demonstrate the ability to teach the “Mystery of Faith” (Memorial Acclamation”) portion of a self-selected, published Mass setting.

III. MUSIC THEORY You will take a Music Theory exam (details provided on page 2; notes or other resources may be consulted if needed).

IV. LITURGICAL KNOWLEDGE You will answer multiple-choice questions on liturgy. These questions are based on paragraphs 96 and 137-190 of *Sing to the Lord*, as well as the Foreword and paragraphs 46-90 of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*. Candidates are expected to be familiar with the material in the specified sections of these documents. This portion of the written test is taken **without** referring to notes or other resources.

V. RESPONSORIAL PSALM AND MINISTRY OF PSALMIST After studying required and recommended resources, you will write two essays (Due prior to or within two months after your adjudication):

- a. a 1 1/2 -2 1/2 page essay using a specific Sunday in Ordinary Time exploring the role of the Responsorial Psalm in the Liturgy of the Word;
- b. a 1 1/2 -2 1/2 page essay applying insights gained from the first essay exploring the ministry and spirituality of the psalmist, both within the liturgy and in daily Christian living.

A detailed essay guide and planning worksheet and a list of required and recommended readings for writing these essays is available online at <https://npm.org/cantor-certificate-programs/>

Also available to help you in your writing is a chart of the criteria which will be used to evaluate your essays.

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MUSIC THEORY EXAM

The exam will be in five parts and will cover several aspects of music theory. A score of 70% or better is required to pass each section. Resources may be consulted for this portion of the test; however, candidates should be familiar with the material so that they are able to quickly and easily locate anything they might need to look up.

PART 1 – You will be given 4 different key signatures and will need to identify the appropriate key. (Example – one sharp = G Major). Two will be major keys and two will be minor.

PART 2 - You will name the interval above the given tonic, for example, Major 3rd. There are four questions in this section.

PART 3 - You will respond to five questions about terms and symbols used in music, such as the repeat sign or dynamic markings.

PART 4 - You will answer four questions about a piece of music, which will be provided. The questions are about identifying the correct rhythm/count of some of the notes in the piece and recognizing the intervals for some of the notes.

PART 5 – You will identify the time signature for a series of measures. All of the answers are traditional time signatures.