Basic Pianist Certificate

For Pianists Serving Roman Catholic Parishes

The NPM Steering Committee for Pianists has developed this process for attaining a Basic Pianist Certificate for members of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians as a way to recognize a musician's achievement of the fundamentals of service piano playing expected of musicians serving Roman Catholic parishes. A certificate presumes an understanding of a spirituality of ministry.

Application Date: _____ Member or Group Number: _____

NPM Basic Pianist Certificate Application

Title (Mr., Ms., Rev., etc.) First Middle Last Suffix

Name as you would like for it to appear on the completed certificate

Mailing Address City State/Province Zip

Preferred Phone, Home or Cell (include area code) Preferred e-mail address

Parish/Organization Name

Parish/Organization Mailing Address City State/Province Zip

Repertoire Choices *(to be digitally recorded)*

Hymn Tunes

1. Metrical _____
2. Contemporary _____

Psalm _____

Mass Setting _____
(Holy/Memorial Acclamation/Amen)

Lamb of God _____

Selections from the NPM Liturgical Piano Repertoire list

1. _____
2. _____

Payment ($25)

❑ Check # _____ enclosed. Make payable to **NPM** in US Dollars.

❑ I authorize NPM to charge my: ❑ MasterCard ❑ VISA ❑ AMEX ❑ Discover

Credit Card Number Expiration Date

Name on Card (Please print clearly)

Cardholder Signature Date of Signature

Security Code (*3 digits located on back, or 4 digits on front for AMEX)* Billing Zip Code

NPM Basic Pianist Certificate Requirements

Test Process

The test for the Basic Pianist Certificate has two components:

1. **Service Music**: Each candidate must play **from the approved list** *(on the following page)*
   - Two hymns—one based on a Metrical Hymn Tune and one Contemporary Liturgical Song
   - A Responsorial Psalm
   - A setting of the Eucharistic Prayer Acclamations (Holy, Holy, Holy/ Memorial Acclamation response/Great Amen)
   - A setting of the Lamb of God/Agnus Dei

   All hymns, psalms and service music selections are to be chosen from the **Examination Repertoire List** below and online.

2. **Piano Literature:** Each candidate must also play two pieces of his or her own choosing which are to be selected from the NPM Liturgical Piano Repertoire list. The list is available online at https://npm.org/wp-content/uploads/Piano-Certification-Repertoire-Liturgical.pdf.

See https://npm.org/pianists-certification/ for additional information, including the procedures for completing an on-site adjudication.

Application Process

Eligibility

All members of NPM are eligible to apply for the NPM Basic Pianist Certificate.

Procedures

1. Complete the application form and return it with a non-refundable $25 processing fee to NPM-BPC, 962 Wayne Avenue, Suite 210, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4461.
2. Upon receipt of your application and payment of fee, you will be contacted by a member of the BPC Examination Committee and will be given instructions for selecting a proctor and completing a recording of your chosen repertoire.
3. In the presence of the assigned proctor, record your chosen repertoire digitally. The proctor signs an affidavit as witness.
4. Submit two copies of your recording to the e-mail address given to you by the Examination Committee. You will be notified of the results. *All recordings must be submitted within one year of the date on which your application is received.*

Expectations

Adjudicators will be looking for the basic skills needed for accompanying a congregation: accuracy of notes and rhythms, steady and appropriate *tempi*, clear introductions, and basic piano technique.