

Scope and Sequence for NPM Cantor Certificates

Please note that the musical, spiritual and liturgical components of these certificates are essential and interrelated aspects of the standards and requirements. Candidates are expected to engage in thoughtful, prayerful preparation and formation in all of these areas whether they are professional musicians or volunteers. For this reason, all candidates must start with the BCC and may apply for only one certificate at a time.

Also note that the cantor certificate process is intended for adult cantors. Cantors younger than age 18 who wish to pursue the Basic Cantor Certificate and who are prepared to meet all of the expectations must contact the certificate administrator to discuss the possibility of being considered for the process.

Candidates are responsible for consulting the Study Guides on the NPM website.

Questions may be directed to the specific Certificate Administrator.

	Basic Cantor Certificate (BCC)	Intermediate Cantor Certificate (ICC)	Cantor Colleague Certificate (CCC)
Intended Audience	The BCC is for adult cantors who have trained to be a cantor, currently serve in the cantor ministry in their parish or diocese, and are on a journey toward a deeper and more intentional participation in the ministry.	The ICC is for adult cantors who have trained to be a cantor, currently serve in the ministry in their parish or diocese on a regular basis, and are prepared to explore the spiritual and liturgical aspects in greater depth, particularly with respect to the Psalms.	The CCC is for adult cantors who have trained to be a cantor, currently serve in the ministry in their parish or diocese on a regular basis, and are prepared to explore the liturgical and spiritual aspects in greater depth and complexity.
Eligibility	The BCC applicant must be a member of NPM at the national level.	The ICC applicant must be a member of NPM at the national level, and must have completed the BCC.	The CCC applicant must be a member of NPM at the national level, and must have completed the BCC and the ICC.
Mastery level	The BCC candidate is able to complete each of the following with at least 70% mastery: (Candidates are responsible for consulting the Study Guides on the website in order to prepare.)	The ICC candidate is able to complete each of the following with at least 70% mastery: (Candidates are responsible for consulting the Study Guides on the website in order to prepare.)	The CCC candidate is able to complete each of the following with at least 70% mastery: (Candidates are responsible for consulting the Study Guides on the website in order to prepare.)
Written tests (Music Theory & Liturgy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Music theory</u>: Demonstrate familiarity with basic musical notation by identifying basic symbols and musical terms. <u>Liturgy</u>: A) Demonstrate familiarity with the Order of Mass by identifying proper sequence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Music theory</u>: Identify terms, time signatures, key signatures (major and minor), chords, and symbols <u>Liturgy</u>: Respond to questions about the shape and structure of the Mass. This section includes questions based on paragraphs 96 and 137-199 of <i>Sing to the Lord</i>, as 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Music theory</u>: Identify terms, time signatures, key signatures (major and minor), chords, and symbols (The CCC test includes a broader range of content than the ICC test.) <u>Liturgy</u>: This section includes questions based on paragraphs 110-

	<p>B) Respond to multiple choice questions based on paragraphs 8-40 of <i>Sing to the Lord</i>.</p> <p>C) Respond to questions about musical and spiritual preparation to sing the psalm.</p>	<p>well as the Foreword and paragraphs 46-90 of the <i>General Instruction of the Roman Missal</i>.</p>	<p>229 and 244-257 of <i>Sing to the Lord</i> and paragraphs 98-198 of the <i>General Instruction of the Roman Missal</i>.</p>
<p>Essay test – Liturgy/Spiritual</p>	<p>The BCC candidate will respond to brief questions about musical and spiritual preparation to sing the psalm, and will be expected to acknowledge the connection between the Lectionary readings and the responsorial psalm.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write essay responses to questions about a self-selected psalm, discussing the role of the cantor, connections between the psalm and the readings, and meaning and impact of the psalm. • Cite from recognized sources to support the responses given. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write essay responses to questions about music for specific parts of the Mass, specific liturgical seasons, and specific rites, and the role of the cantor, psalmist, choir, priest, deacon, and assembly. • Cite from recognized sources to support the responses given.
<p>Applied vocal skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sing and lead 2 prepared psalms (one chant, one melodic) from the approved BCC list, with appropriate tempo, pitch, tone, expression, and gestures, as reflected on the rubric. • Pitch matching: Sing back intervals played by the accompanist. • Sing and lead a published <i>Penitential Act (Kyrie)</i> and a published <i>Lamb of God</i>, which must conform to the text of <i>The Roman Missal</i>, Third Edition, or its Spanish equivalent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sing and lead 2 prepared psalms (one chant, one melodic) from the approved ICC list, with appropriate tempo, pitch, tone, gestures, and expression, as reflected on the rubric • Sing and lead a published <i>Glory to God</i>. • Sing and lead the <i>Alleluia</i> (Mode VI chant version, <i>a capella</i> with a verse). • Teach a setting of the <i>Memorial Acclamation (Mystery of Faith)</i> • Sight sing a hymn or a responsorial psalm. • Mass parts must conform to the text of <i>The Roman Missal</i>, Third Edition, or its Spanish equivalent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sing and lead 2 prepared psalms (one chant, one melodic) from the approved CCC list, with appropriate tempo, pitch, tone, expression, and gestures, as reflected on the rubric • Sight sing a responsorial psalm and <i>Alleluia/Gospel Acclamation</i>. • Sing an Easter, Pentecost, or Corpus Christi Sequence. <p>Additional CCC requirement: Personal Interview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in an interview with the CCC Administrator to share personal reflections on the ministry of cantor.

Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship and *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* are widely available for purchase online.