

Item #7

MUSIC FOR THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION DURING MASS

In choosing music for Confirmation, it is important not to dwell exclusively on the theme of the coming of the Spirit. This approach tends to reinforce the "isolation" of this sacrament from the other two sacraments of initiation, Baptism and Eucharist. For this reason it is important to also include songs that are based on the broader themes of Resurrection, Baptism, Eucharist, the Holy Trinity, and the Kingship of Jesus, as well as the themes of commitment, service, discipleship, and mission.

When Confirmation is celebrated on a Sunday of Advent, Lent, or Eastertime, the music chosen should also be in harmony with the readings of the day and the spirit of the particular season.

It is very important that the whole assembly be able to join in the singing of the Gospel Acclamation, Holy, Memorial Acclamation, and the Great Amen, as well as an opening song, communion song, and the responsorial psalm response.

The Archbishop may also chant dialogues or other portions of the liturgy that call for the response of the assembly such as the Sign of the Cross and Greeting, the Opening Prayer, the Prayer over the Gifts, the Communion Prayer, and the Final Blessing and Dismissal.

The cantor may conduct a brief period of musical preparation with the assembly before Mass, especially if a considerable number of people are unfamiliar with the music to be used for these sung parts. Vocal solos that do not include a refrain for the whole assembly are to be avoided.

PROCESSIONAL / OPENING SONG

For the procession, it may be best to choose a song in which a choir or cantor sings verses and all join in singing a refrain.

Examples in processional style (all sing refrain; choir or cantor sings verses):

The Spirit of God (Deiss)
We Remember (Haugen)
Festival Canticle (Hillert)
Lift High the Cross
Hail Thee, Festival Day
Great Is the Lord (Toolan)
Send Down the Fire (Haugen)
We Are Called (Haas)
Go Make a Difference (Agrisano/Tomascek)
Bring Forth the Kingdom (Haugen)
Voices That Challenge (Haas)

Examples in hymn style:

All Creatures of Our God and King
Come Holy Ghost

The Church's One Foundation
This Day God Gives Me
Gather Us In
To Jesus Christ Our Sovereign King
Sing Praise to Our Creator
(O God, Almighty Father)
We are the Light of the World
How Good and Pleasant (see last page)
I Heard the Voice of Jesus
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You
Sing to the Mountains (Schutte)
Send Us your Spirit (Schutte)
Lord, You Give the Great Commission
O Christ, the Great Foundation
Wind Upon the Water (Haugen)
All Are Welcome (Haugen)
The Summons (Bell)
We Are Called (Haas)

GLORY TO GOD

If the Confirmation takes place on a Sunday outside of Advent or Lent, the Glory to God should be sung. Otherwise it is omitted.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

For Sunday or Feast Day celebrations, the proper psalm or an appropriate seasonal substitute should be used. At other times, Psalm 23 ("The Lord is my shepherd") or Psalm 104 ("Lord, send out your spirit") is recommended.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Use a familiar alleluia (or Lenten acclamation) with cantor or choir singing the verse.

BAPTISMAL SPRINKLING (after renewal of baptismal promises)

A brief song or acclamation should be sung during this time, for example:

You Have Put on Christ (Hughes)
Keep In Mind (Deiss)
There Is One Lord (Alstott or Deiss)
This Is Our Faith (Gardner)

ANOINTING

Depending on the number to be anointed, the music during this time could include choral music as well as a song with a refrain for the assembly. (See Communion song list.) The music during this time should be performed at a moderate level of volume so as not to hinder the verbal communication between the archbishop, sponsor, and the one being confirmed.

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

If there has been a good amount of singing during the anointing, it might be best to use instrumental music at this time. Choral music is also possible.

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS (Holy, Memorial, Amen)

The use of familiar acclamations is very important. In the archdiocese, the most widely-known acclamations include the "Holy" from Vermulst's **People's Mass**, Memorial Acclamation and Great Amen based on the "Danish Amen", "Holy" and "Amen #3" by the St. Louis Jesuits in **Glory and Praise**, and **Mass of Creation** and **Mass of Remembrance** by Haugen.

The **LORD'S PRAYER** is to be recited by all.

LAMB OF GOD

Settings in which the cantor alternates with the assembly in "litany-style" are best. Examples include compositions by Isele, Haugen, and Gardner.

COMMUNION SONG

The assembly should be invited to sing the refrain with the cantor or the choir singing the verses. A single song should be planned to accompany most of the communion procession, lengthened as needed by the use of instrumental interludes. A brief choral or instrumental piece may be added near the end of communion, but it should conclude shortly after the archbishop has been seated and the altar has been cleared. Because of the length of the Mass with the Confirmation Rite, the addition of a SONG AFTER COMMUNION is **not recommended**.

Examples of responsorial songs to accompany the communion procession:

Here I Am, Lord (Schutte)
Send Out Your Spirit (Haas)
Eye Has Not Seen (Haugen)
Grant to Us (Deiss)
Be Not Afraid (Dufford)
Now We Remain (Haas)
Taste and See (Moore)
One Bread, One Body (Foley)
I Have Loved You (Joncas)
By Name I Have Called You (Landry)
Veni Sancte Spiritus (Berthier)
We Have Been Told (Haas)
Eat This Bread (Berthier)
Shepherd Me, O God (Haugen)
Blest are They (Haas)
To Be Your Bread (Haas)
You Are Near (Dufford)

Ubi Caritas (Berthier)
Take and Eat (Joncas)
Holy Is Your Name (Haas)
Like a Shepherd (Dufford)
Song Over the Waters (Haugen)
We are Called (Haas)
We Are Many Parts (Haugen)
Digo "Sí," Señor" (I Say "Yes," My Lord) (Peña)
Pan de Vida (Hurd)
Pescador de Hombres

FINAL SONG

See list of opening songs.

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HYMN FOR CONFIRMATION

How good and pleasant that we live
By pow'r that only God can give.
Our arms are ready to embrace
The sons and daughters of God's grace.

With oil of gladness God anoints
The chosen servants he appoints :
His Holy Spirit comes in peace,
And wisdom, truth, and joy increase.

In times of doubt, Lord, be their guide;
In times of strength, be at their side:
To those they meet let them impart
The faithful goodness of your heart.

Send out your servants, God Most High,
To speak Good News no wealth can buy;
Let them return to sing your praise
And tell the splendor of your ways.

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