



Episcopal Diocese of Texas
Church Music Commission

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MUSIC IN THE SMALL CHURCH

We will discuss the tools and information necessary for drafting hymns and service music for small parishes, using lectionary readings and reference guides. Other aspects of the administration of music ministry, from copyright issues, selection and training of parish musicians and budget constraints, will be covered. Planning resources, online guides and diocesan resources will be outlined.

1. Music in the Small Parish

Our strong musical tradition is one that can attract people to our parishes!

Effect of Good Music in the Small Church: Music as a building resource
Difficulty in gaining “Momentum” if first hymn isn’t sung
Music in the Anglican service on Sunday
Chanted service music vs. spoken
Hymns
Voluntaries before and after the service
Resource for Planning any service—Hatchett’s Guide to the Practice of Church Music, Episcopal Musician’s Handbook, Liturgical Music (Daw & Pavlechko, Years A, B & C)

2. How are the above different in a small parish?

Less chanted music
More familiar hymns—balance of familiar vs. “stretch”
Often less skilled accompaniment
Sometimes pre-recorded accompaniment, guitar, a cappella singing

3. What are the Hymns that this community knows and loves? You will never have unanimous agreement about anything related to music.

Poll the congregation
Read previous bulletins from past years
Find someone knowledgeable about the repertoire of the congregation
Please do not use any suggestions verbatim!

4. How are the Hymns selected

Where are the Indices found for the Scriptures and Subjects?

Lectionary readings: Good resource is

<http://www.io.com/~kellywp/index> (Google “Lectionary Page”)

Sources of suggestions

- Episcopal Musician’s Handbook (Church Publ., \$ 25)
- Liturgical Music A, B, C (Church Publishing, \$ 30) Daw & Pavlechko”
- Previous Episcopal Musician’s Handbooks

5. How do Hymns for different parts of the service vary?

Processional/Opening

Gradual/Sequence

Offertory

Communion

Recessional/Closing

6. How much service music is appropriate in a small parish?

a. Is there a Choir or Cantor?

b. Which mass settings do they know?

i. Other mass settings well-suited to small churches

c. What about Hymn of Praise rather than Gloria, etc.?

d. Psalms

Metrical settings

Antiphonal settings (HymnTune Psalter, Church Publishing)

7. What about music not in the Hymnal 1982?

a. Other Hymnals published by Church Publishing

www.churchpublishing.org (Wonder, Love & Praise, LEVAS, etc.)

b. RiteSong as part of Rite Brain for drafting bulletins and printing music

c. Music of the Taize Community—especially useful in small churches

www.taize.fr Order individual octavos from GIA Music

www.giamusic.com

d. Other Contemporary Music

Use discretion about suitability of text

Giving melody line for ease of learning and participating

Generational issues

1. How do I purchase a license?

2. Types of licenses (www.onelicense.net and

www.CCLI.com 800-234-2446)

3. Reporting and proper copyright procedures

(additional handouts available for copyright procedures)

8. The Music Budget

Musician, if not a volunteer

Leadership Program/Musicians Serving in Small Churches (LPM)

Choir director, if you have a choir, if not a volunteer

Printed music for choir/congregation

Licenses (ccli, onelicense.net)

Instrument maintenance (tunings)

9. Hiring a Musician or Locating a Volunteer

Determining number of hours and budget

What if no one is available?

Local music teachers, schools and colleges

AAM Resource—"Musicians Called to Serve"

American Guild of Organists Chapters www.ago-hq.org

Music Commission referrals

10. Working with the Organist/Musicians

Expectations

Leading the Congregation

Adding instrumentalists

What if you need to use a pianist—how is it different?

Simplified Accompaniments: 97 Hymns (Church Publishing, \$ 26)

What about guitar accompaniments?

- Tell Out My Soul: Guitar Lead Sheets for Favorite Hymns (Church Publishing, \$ 20)

- Cuthbert Praise (Randy Adams) www.cuthbertpraise.com;

his arrangements are for multiple instruments

Maintaining your instruments

Tuning the piano

Tuning the organ, if applicable

Maintenance budget

11. Inviting guest musicians to the parish

- Recitals and special programs (concerts) to bring in visitors and community
Opportunities include special services, recitals by local or college groups (choirs like Community Choruses, piano students, etc).

- Use other instruments available to you

Band students (descant book published by St. James Press or Cuthbert Praise arrangements are the best)

Flute, piano, harpsichord, keyboard, guitars, marimba, etc.

Check with area piano or organ teachers for students that might be able to play or substitute

Use of college students—section leaders for choir?

Use of guest instrumentalists

12. Use of Synthesized or Pre-Recorded Keyboard Music, e.g. “Synthia”
 - Not the best alternative; use ONLY when no other options are available (“Synthia”, MIDI files at St. Paul’s, Navasota)
 - Illegality of playing CDs
13. St. James Music Press (www.sjmp.com) Subscription is now \$ 139/year and allow photocopying. Publishes instrumental descant book. Music for Smaller Choirs (most are sight-readable):
 - [The Sunday Morning Absolutely One-Rehearsal Anthem Book for About 10 Panicked Singers](#) (20 Two-Part Anthems)
 - [ADVENT for about 10 panicked singers](#)
 - [Lessons and Carols for About 10 Panicked Singers](#)
 - [Ash Wednesday to Easter for About 10 Panicked Singers](#)
14. Online Church Publishing Resources
 - a. Special pricing for 1-50 ASA exists; next category is 50-99
 - **Ritesong** (music database) \$ 99 per year
 - **Riteworship** (online bulletin builder with music database) \$ 139 per year, including license to use the music included on it
15. Diocesan Music Commission www.epicenter.org/musiccommission

Available to advise on variety of topics, pairing musicians in a larger church with your church

Music Workshops—geared to small churches as requested

Diocesan Music Camp (Special scholarships available), Brenham

Diocesan Youth Choral Festival, at Cathedral.

Diocesan (Adult) Choral Festival, October at Cathedral