

## CONFIRMATION MUSIC GUIDELINES

### Introduction

“Those who have been baptized continue on the path of Christian initiation through the sacrament of confirmation. In this sacrament they receive the Holy Spirit whom the Lord sent upon the apostles on Pentecost.”<sup>1</sup> In the Roman rite this imparting of the Holy Spirit is not seen as an end in itself, but a continuation of God’s work first received in the sacrament of baptism. Having been “buried with Christ” and “becoming a new creation,”<sup>2</sup> these “holy ones”<sup>3</sup> have already been anointed to be “priest, prophet, and king”<sup>4</sup> within the communion that is the Church.

“This giving of the Holy Spirit conforms believers more fully to Christ and strengthens them so that they may bear witness to Christ for the building up of his Body in faith and love.”<sup>5</sup> Although this outpouring marks each person receiving the sacrament “with the character or seal of the Lord,”<sup>6</sup> the celebration of the rite of confirmation within Mass should reflect the unitive nature of the liturgy which expects the “full, conscious, and active participation”<sup>7</sup> of all those gathered for this special moment in the life of the Church.

Therefore, the principles and ritual actions described in the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* should be observed. Then please see the Archdiocesan Liturgical Guidelines at <http://www.archdiosf.org/Offices/Worship/Worship.html>. Also, the three judgments found in *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship* published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will be helpful in the choosing music to fit the celebration. These three judgments beg the questions: Is the music liturgical? Is the music musical? Is the music pastoral?

### Is the music liturgical?

In today’s world, music is found everywhere. We find music in our homes and places of business. We find it in the places where we take our leisure and where we shop. We find it in our places of worship.

All music is not created equal. Music for worship should elevate the hearts, minds and souls of those gathered for the receiving of Christ in his Word and his Sacraments. Secular music usually does not fulfill this purpose. Sacred music that has been selected to meet the ritual actions of the liturgy will be the most suitable.

Yet even sacred music is not created equal. Sacred music that is especially meaningful in other prayer settings, such as retreats, rallies, conferences, personal meditation or catechetical sessions may not be appropriate for liturgical praxis.

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<sup>1</sup> RITE OF CONFIRMATION, no. 1

<sup>2</sup> cf. Roman 6, 4

<sup>3</sup> cf. Ephesians 1, 15

<sup>4</sup> Rite of Baptism for Children, no. 62

<sup>5</sup> RITE OF CONFIRMATION, no. 2

<sup>6</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY, no. 14

**Is the music musical?**

This may seem a nonsensical question, but the music for liturgy should never be mundane or trite. The quality of the music should immerse the faithful into the depth of the mysteries being celebrated. The quality of the performance of the music should also be well-done, supporting the prayer and should never be a distraction or become a show.

**Is the music pastoral?**

The music selected must be culturally sensitive and be within the ability of the assembly to participate. Particularly for liturgies which bring others, especially family and friends who do not belong to the parish, the music repertoire should be accessible to them, which may mean the choosing of music that would be known more generally throughout the region. This may also mean that music that is well-known by those who are involved in the youth ministry of the parish may not be the best for the greater community.

Again, the Church’s expectation is “full, conscious, and active participation.” The ministers of music should take their proper liturgical and musical roles as well as the celebrant, deacon, other liturgical ministers and the congregation. The participation of the congregation should never be neglected.

**Music List**

Copies of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* and *Sing to the Lord: Music for Divine Worship* are available for purchase from the Office of Worship.

The following list of appropriate music for confirmation celebrations was compiled by the Archdiocesan Music Committee and the Associate Director of Music of the Office of Worship. This list is not intended to be exclusive. Other music may be appropriate. It is desired that the music list will be helpful in your planning.

The music list directs you to the publishers who have issued hymnals, songbooks and missalettes that have contained each piece. Due to the fact that these collections change from edition to edition, the collections are not named. These are the collections that were researched in order to make the list:

<b>GIA Publications</b>	<b>Oregon Catholic Press</b>	<b>World Library Publications</b>
Gather Comprehensive Ritual Song Worship	Breaking Bread Flor y Canto Glory & Praise Journeysongs Music Issue One Voice / Una Voz Spirit & Song Today’s Missal	Cantos del Pueblo de Dios Celebremos / Let Us Celebrate People’s Mass Book We Celebrate

See the Confirmation Songlist for suggested music.

<http://santafe.parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=21647>