

**Liturgy Alive:  
Notre Dame Magnificat Choir Composition Commission Competition 2023**

With this competition, the Notre Dame Magnificat Choir encourages composers to write new works for the glory of God to be sung by women's voices. We are looking specifically for music that serves the Catholic liturgy, and will be drawing on texts from the propers of the Mass as found in the *Graduale Romanum*.



**About the choir**

The Notre Dame Magnificat Choir is composed of approximately fifty women who perform a varied repertoire including Gregorian chant, Renaissance polyphony, and music from the 18th through the 21st century. The choir is responsible for providing music at the Saturday Vigil Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. More information about the choir can be found on their [website](#), [facebook page](#), and [youtube channel](#). Their latest CD, "Cantica," can be found [here](#).

**Text**

The composer must set the following text for submission. The complete text of the antiphon must appear at least once. The submission may use the Spanish translation provided below (preferred) or the original Latin.

**Offertory for the Fifth Sunday of Lent Confitebor (Psalm 118: 7, 10, 17, 25)**

Latin

Confitébor tibi, Dómine,  
in toto corde meo.  
Retribue servo tuo,  
vivam, et custódiám sermónes tuos.  
Vivífica me secúndum  
verbum tuum, Domine.

English translation (for reference only)

*I will praise you, O Lord,  
With my whole heart.  
Deal bountifully with your servant,  
that I may live and observe your word.  
Revive me according  
to your word, O Lord.*

Spanish

Te alabaré, Señor, con todo mi corazón;  
concede a tu siervo vivir y que guarde tus preceptos.  
¡Oh Señor, vivifícanos según tu palabra!

### **Voicing**

The choral forces for the composition should be in three parts (soprano, mezzo-soprano, alto). Very limited instances of *divisi* may occur if necessary.

### **Accompaniment**

Works should be a *capella*, without accompaniment.

### **Difficulty level/style**

For reference, below is a list of several pieces from the choir's repertoire. This should be used as a guide for both the general style and difficulty level for composition entries. The winning piece will be sung by a choir of mostly undergraduate non-music majors. We are looking for beautiful works of an easy to moderate difficulty level that the choir can learn in a few brief rehearsals. The winning piece(s) will be used primarily for Mass and will be added to our cycle of liturgical and concert repertoire. Atonal writing will not be considered.

Gevaert, François-Auguste: *O Filii et Filiae*  
Howells, Herbert: *Hills of the North*  
Kronner, Patrick: *Nunc Dimittis*  
Mendelssohn, Felix: *Lift Thine Eyes*  
Owolabi, Kola: *Prayer of St. Francis*  
Rheinberger, Josef Gabriel: *3 Latin Hymns, Op. 96*  
Williams, Vernon: *Ave Maria*

**Optional style challenge:** compose a setting influenced in some way by the musical languages of Latin America.

### **Past Winners**

Score samples and information about past winners can be found here:

<https://magnificatchoir.nd.edu/about/annual-composition-contest/>

### **Length of piece**

The winning piece will serve as a part of the liturgy of the Catholic Mass. It should be around 3-5 minutes in length in order to comfortably fit within the Mass.

### **Eligibility**

All United States residents in the 50 states over the age of 18 are eligible to enter the competition. Entry is free of charge.

The following individuals are not eligible: employees, collaborators, directors, officers and contractors of the Sponsor, its advertising, fulfillment and public relations agencies and any other agencies involved in the administration, development and fulfillment of this Contest, and the immediate family members and those living in the same households of each.

### **Submissions, score format, and recording**

Each entry must be typeset using a music software program such as Finale or Sibelius. A PDF of the score along with an MP3 recording should be sent to [basilica@nd.edu](mailto:basilica@nd.edu). The email subject line should read "Magnificat Choir Composition Commission Competition 2023." Your name should **NOT** appear on the

score itself since a blind jury will judge the competition. Please include your name and contact information in the body of the email.

The MP3 recording may be an informal play-through at the piano, organ, or other instrument, or midi recording produced by a music software program. It does not need to be an actual performance of the piece with a choir. However, please note that live recordings played on a piano, for example, are preferred over a midi recording since they usually give the panel of judges a much better impression of the composition.

The winning composition must be dedicated to the Notre Dame Magnificat Choir with the text, "Commissioned by the Notre Dame Magnificat Choir; Dr. Patrick Kronner, Director," appearing on the cover page of the score.

### **Deadline**

Entries will be accepted between 8:00 AM EST on July 1, 2022 and 11:59 PM EST on January 2, 2023. The winner(s) will be contacted by January 30, signed affidavits from the winners will be due by February 3, and the winner(s) will be publicly announced by February 6, 2023.

### **Prizes**

Up to two prizes may be awarded:

- 1st prize: \$2,250
- 2nd prize: \$1,250

The panel reserves the right not to award any prize. The winning entry/entries will be sung by the Magnificat Choir during Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame, and the work will be considered for performances in concerts, tours, and recording projects.

### **Evaluation**

The winner will be selected by a panel of judges of church musicians from the University of Notre Dame and St. Mary's College. Selection criteria will include: artistic merit, singability, appropriateness for use within the Catholic Mass, creativity, and similar criteria.

### **Judges**

- Carolyn Craig, *Director of Music, The Episcopal Church at Yale*
- Dr. Patrick Kronner, *Director of the University of Notre Dame Magnificat Choir, Director of the University of Notre Dame Community Choir*
- Dr. Sunghee Kim, *Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Chapel Music, Valparaiso University*
- Dr. Nancy Menk, *Chair and Professor of Music, St. Mary's College; Director of the St. Mary's College Women's Choir*

**Questions:** Questions regarding the Magnificat Choir's competition may be sent to Dr. Patrick Kronner at [pkronner@nd.edu](mailto:pkronner@nd.edu)