

Liturgy Alive:  
Notre Dame Magnificat Choir Composition Commission Competition 2024

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 at the University of Notre Dame. 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 must use the Spanish text provided below. Please take care that the natural Spanish text stress is observed in your setting. (This text is in the public domain.)

#### Offertory for the First Sunday of Lent: *Te Cubrirá*- Psalm 90 (91): 4-5

Spanish (from *Misal Dario San Jose*, p. 116)  
Te cubrirá con sus plumas el Señor,  
hallarás seguro bajo sus alas,  
y su fidelidad te será escudo y adarga.

English translation (for reference only)  
*The Lord will overshadow you with his pinions,  
and you will find refuge under his wings.  
His faithfulness will encompass you with a shield.*

#### Inclusion of *Optional Verses* in English

As long as the complete Spanish text of the antiphon "Te Cubrirá" appears at least once in its entirety, composers may decide to add additional verses of Psalm 91 in English. The English verse(s) must use this translation: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/psalms/91>

If composers decide to include an extra English verse or verses, they must properly cite the source of the text on their score as specified here:

<https://www.usccb.org/offices/new-american-bible/permissions>

### **Voicing**

The choral forces for the composition should be in three parts (soprano, mezzo-soprano, alto).

### **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*  
Mendelssohn, Felix: *Lift Thine Eyes*  
Owolabi, Kola: *Prayer of St. Francis*  
Rheinberger, Josef Gabriel: *3 Latin Hymns, Op. 96*  
Williams, Vernon: *Ave Maria*

### **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 3-4 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 2024." 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, such as those played on a piano, are highly 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, 2023 and 11:59 PM EST on January 2, 2024. The winner(s) will be contacted by January 29, signed affidavits from the winners will be due by February 2, and the winner(s) will be publicly announced by February 5, 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, choir directors, and composers. Selection criteria will include: artistic merit, singability, appropriateness for use within the Catholic Mass, creativity, and similar criteria.

### **Judges**

- Dr. Sunghee Kim, *Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Chapel Music, Valparaiso University*
- Dr. Patrick Kronner, *Director of the University of Notre Dame Magnificat Choir, Director of the University of Notre Dame Community Choir*
- Dr. Nancy Menk, *Chair and Professor of Music, Saint Mary's College; Director of Belles Voix, Saint Mary's College Women's Choir.*
- Dr. Brenda Portman, *Organist & Composer, Hyde Park Community UMC / Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH.*

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