



Liturgy Alive:

Notre Dame Magnificat Choir Composition Commission Competition 2027

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.



About the choir

The Notre Dame Magnificat Choir is composed of approximately fifty singers 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 album, *Magnificat*, (Signum Records) was released in 2025 and can be found on youtube and all streaming platforms. The album features several past winning compositions from this contest.

Text

The composer must set the following Spanish 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.

Communion Proper for the Solemnity of Christ the King (Years B and C)

Spanish (from [Misa! Diario San Jose](#), p. 478)

Siéntase el Señor como Rey eterno; el
Señor bendecirá a su pueblo con la paz.

English translation (composers must set the Spanish text)

*The Lord reigns as king forever! May the Lord
bless his people with peace.*

Bilingual option: Inclusion of *optional* psalm verses in English

As long as the complete Spanish text of the antiphon “Siéntase el Señor” appears at least once in its entirety, composers may decide to also set portions of its English translation as seen above.

Additionally, composers may opt to add additional verses of Psalm 29 (28) in English. The English verse(s) must use the translation found here: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/psalms/29>
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 two parts (soprano and alto) or three parts (soprano, mezzo-soprano, and alto).

Accompaniment

Works may be a *capella* (without accompaniment) or include organ accompaniment. Both accompanied and unaccompanied submissions will be accepted. However, please note that pieces making use of the grandiose sounds of the organ would be very fitting for the Solemnity of Christ the King.

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 an exciting and 'grand' piece (fitting for the Solemnity of Christ the King) of an easy/moderate difficulty level that our choir can learn *in a few brief rehearsals*. The winning piece will be used primarily for the Solemnity of Christ the King Mass in November 2027 and will be added to our cycle of liturgical and concert repertoire. Atonal writing and/or overly complicated music will be disqualified.

Gevaert, François-Auguste: *O Filii et Filiae*
Mendelssohn, Felix: *Lift Thine Eyes*
Owolabi, Kola: *Prayer of St. Francis*
Pirtle: A Ti Alzo Mi Alma (sample score found [here](#))
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 the 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.

Optional Antiphon/Verse format with a flexible duration: *Composers may also choose to write a piece of a flexible length by using the refrain/verse format. Pieces like these should use the Spanish text "Siéntase el Señor..." as a choral antiphon which can repeat in alternation with optional choral verses of Psalm 29 (28) (in English as specified in the "Text" section above). Works such as these give the director the option of extending or shortening the performance time by either adding or cutting the number of optional psalm verses. See example [here](#).*

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. The email subject line should read "Magnificat Choir Composition Commission Competition 2027." 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; Elizabeth Schleicher, Interim Director," appearing on the cover page of the score.

Deadline

Entries will be accepted between 8:00 AM EST on July 1, 2026 and 11:59 PM EST on January 3, 2027. The winner will be contacted by January 29, a signed affidavit from the winner will be due by February 1, and the winner will be publicly announced by February 3, 2027.

Prize:

1st prize: \$3,500

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

- Elizabeth Schleicher, *Interim Director, Notre Dame Magnificat Choir*
- Dr. Patrick Kronner, *Director of Music, Augustana Lutheran Church, Denver, Colorado*
- 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 Elizabeth Schleicher at eschleic@nd.edu