

SUGGESTED MUSIC
RITE OF CHRISTIAN
FUNERALS
CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY CROSS

What music is appropriate for a funeral of a loved one?

If you need assistance and have any questions, Richard Clark, Cathedral and Archdiocesan Music Director is very happy to guide you step by step in the process. He can be reached at richard_clark@rcab.org.



Music is an integral part of the liturgy. Each piece of music serves a particular liturgical function in the form of accompanying processions, sung prayers or responses. As God is at the center of our prayer, all music and texts for a funeral must be sacred and liturgically appropriate, reflecting the sacramental reality of Christian life and love in the Church. Furthermore, Sacred Music should “console and uplift the grieving while expressing a spirit of hope in the Christian’s share in Christ’s victory over death.” (Order of Christians Funerals #31)

As such, only music composed specifically for the liturgy may be used during a funeral. What are not appropriate are secular pieces or popular songs with non-sacred texts, so they are not permitted. In addition, recorded music is also not allowed. “Recorded music lacks the authenticity provided by a living liturgical assembly gathered for the Sacred Liturgy.” (USCCB, STTL, 2007).

While certain music may be a special favorite or have personal meaning, music for Mass must be sacred in order to be liturgically appropriate. Ultimately, the music must draw us “*closer to the mystery of Christ, which is at the heart of this liturgical celebration.*” (Ibid.)

HYMNS & SONGS

Choose up to four:

- All Creatures of Our God and King
- Amazing Grace
- Ave Maria, (Various composers, e.g., Schubert, Gounod, Chant)
- Be Not Afraid, R. Dufford
- The Call/Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life, R. Vaughan Williams
- For All the Saints
- I Know That My Redeemer Lives
- The King of Love My Shepherd Is
- Lead, Kindly Light, text: Newman, Music: Purday
- Lord of All Hopefulness
- O God Beyond All Praising, Holst/Proulx
- O God, Our Help in Ages Past
- Panis Angelicus, C. Franck
- Pie Jesu, Gabriel Fauré (“Blessed Jesus, Lord, Grant them rest.”)
- Prayer of St. Francis, Sebastian Temple
- Song of Farewell (tune - *Old Hundredth*)
- Spirit Seeking Light and Beauty, Traditional Gaelic, text: J. Stuart
- What Wondrous Love Is This?
- Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

Any chants from the Funeral Mass are highly appropriate, e.g.:

- Entrance Procession: *Requiem æternam dona eis Domine*, Mode VI Chant
 - “Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.
- Communion: *Lux æterna luceat eis, Domin*, Mode VIII Chant
 - “May eternal light shine upon them, O Lord, in the company of your saints for eternity, for you are full of goodness.”
- Final Commendation or Recessional: *In Paradisum*
 - “May the choirs of angels lead you into paradise...”

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (settings by various composers)

- Psalm 23: “The Lord Is My Shepherd”
- Psalm 34: Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord
- Psalm 27: The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation
- Psalm 25: To you, I Lift Up My Soul, Ostrowski, Marier
- Psalm 42: My Soul Is Thirsting
- Psalm 130: With the Lord There Is Mercy