MUSIC at a Mass of Christian Burial at Holy Trinity Catholic Church:
Instructions for Families

The music at a Mass of Christian Burial is best served by two professional musicians: the accompanist [piano, organ] and the cantor [singer]. Both the accompanist and cantor play or sing twelve to fifteen pieces of music or songs depending on the season, a substantial job that requires rehearsal and training.

Family Responsibilities

1. Do we have to pick out the musical selections? The answer is NO. At this difficult time of grief, the church does not require anyone to pick out music or readings. However, because families are often interested in singing or hearing favorite sacred songs, the music director for the Mass can usually accommodate suggestions, especially those from our Gather Comprehensive hymnal. Four songs total may be chosen, and a list of commonly requested songs follows.

2. Please contact the music director Dr. Sharon M. Hershey O.C.D.S. at your earliest convenience.

personal cell phone for calls and texts: 719-351-4480

email for documents and programs if needed: shershey@holytrinitycos.org

Dr. Hershey is available to accompany most funeral Masses at the piano and organ and to arrange for the ministry of the cantor.

If she is unavailable, the parish office staff has a contact list for other Catholic music ministers and can help find them according to the family wishes.

3. What does it cost to have music at a funeral Mass?

The singer and accompanist each receive a minimum honorarium of $175, payable at the time of the funeral.

A single musician both accompanying and singing receives a minimum honorarium of $225.

4. Do we have another option if we cannot afford musicians?

Yes. There are ways to simplify the musical offerings at a funeral Mass. Also, a funeral outside of Mass needs less music than a full Mass. In both cases, call the music director or deacon immediately and bring up your concerns to find the best solution. We want to be here to serve your family in this time of need.

5. Do we have to have music at the funeral? The answer is NO.

Commonly Requested Songs for a Mass of Christian Burial

Pick one Entrance Song:

On Eagle's Wings
Sing With All the Saints in Glory (Beethoven's Ode to Joy tune)
I Know That My Redeemer Lives
Jerusalem My Happy Home
Any Easter or Resurrection-theme hymn

Pick one Offertory Song [during the Presentation of the Gifts]:

Ave Maria [Schubert] or other Marian hymn like Immaculate Mary
*any classical song requires both a cantor and accompanist
Make Me A Channel of Your Peace
You Are Mine
Precious Lord, Take My Hand *requires cantor and accompanist
Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled
Here I Am Lord
They'll Know We Are Christians by our Love

Pick one Communion Song, either sung alone by cantor or joined by congregation:

- Classical songs sung by the cantor alone: Panis Angelicus of Franck (The Bread of Angels)
  He Shall Feed His Flock from Handel's Messiah
- Congregational songs led by cantor and piano:
  Be Not Afraid
  You Are Near
  You Satisfy the Hungry Heart
  Behold the Lamb
  Jerusalem My Happy Home-about heaven and eternity
  The King of Love My Shepherd is (if Psalm 23 is not sung earlier)
  Shepherd Me O God (if Psalm 23 is not sung earlier)

Pick one Recessional Song:

Amazing Grace
How Great Thou Art
Sing with All the Saints (Beethoven's Ode to Joy tune)
Holy God We Praise Thy Name
O God Beyond All Praising
Any Easter or Resurrection-theme hymn

It is possible to suggest a Responsorial Psalm. Here are the two best options:

Psalm 23 The Lord is My Shepherd

Psalm 27 The Lord is My Light and My Salvation

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