



UNIVERSITY OF
ST. THOMAS
HOUSTON

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES MASTER OF SACRED MUSIC (MSM)

PROGRAM OF STUDY

The program of study includes a minimum of 32 semester hours of graduate work.

Liturgical Studies

MSM 5320 Liturgy I
MSM 5321 Liturgy II or MSM 5308 Multicultural Liturgy (*proposed*)

6 Credit Hours

3
3

Sacred and Choral Music

MSM 5300 Sacred Music Seminar I or
MSM 5307 Sacred Music Seminar II

3 Credit Hours

3

Applied Skills

MSM 5224 Applied Lessons (Voice/Keyboard)
MSM 5311 Diction
MSM 5312 Conducting
MSM5313 Anatomy and Function of the Singing Voice
MSM 5330 Practicum

20 Credit Hours

8
3
3
3
3

Electives

MSM 5301 Survey of Sacred Choral Literature
MSM 5302 Children's Choirs
MSM 5303 Chant
MSM 5304 Archdiocesan Choir
MSM 5306 Survey of Organ Literature
MSM 5308 Multicultural Liturgy
MSM 5309 Liturgical Music and Documents
MSM 5310 The Organ in Worship
MSM 6393 Special Topics
One course from the Graduate School of Theology

3 Credit Hours

3
3
3
3
3
3
3
3
3
3

Total Credit Hours:

32

Certificate in Sacred Music

The certificate program is a two-semester (16credit hour) course of study withinthe Master of Sacred Music plan that prepares the church musician for more comprehensive workwithparishmusic programs. The curriculum is designed in accordance with the standards of the NPM (National Pastoral Musician) certification process for cantors and AGO (American Guild of Organists) for organists.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sacred Music Seminar I: Masses, Passions and Requiems. An historical survey of Western sacred vocal repertoire, from Gregorian chant to the development of polyphony in Masses, Passions and Requiems by composers such as Leonin and Perotin, Schütz, Bach and Mozart.

Sacred Music Seminar II: An examination of the beginnings of Church hymnody, the Western sacred vocal repertoire of French and Italian composers of the Romantic period, and British and American 20th and 21st century sacred music, including the African American spiritual and Gospel repertoire.

Liturgy I: The Roman calendar, liturgical year, 3-year cycle of readings, the role of music in liturgy, liturgy of the mass.

Liturgy II: Other forms of liturgy including liturgy of the hours, weddings, funerals and ordinations, role of cantors, chant, singing of psalms, hymnody, and documents of the Church.

Multicultural Liturgy: A study of musical liturgical resources and practices available for the ever evolving multicultural Church.

Anatomy and Function of the Singing Voice: Techniques for singing as a soloist/cantor and the role of the voice in a choral setting. Students will be required to teach a short sequence of lessons to a non-major student, and demonstrate teaching for the class.

Applied Voice/Keyboard: Private study in area needed to strengthen student's skills.

Diction: A study of English, Latin, French, German, Italian and Spanish pronunciation. Presenting texts through music that are comprehensible for the worshiper.

Ecclesiastical Diction: A survey of British, English, American English and Ecclesiastical Latin, including variations in Roman Latin, German Latin and French Latin.

Conducting: The director's role in presenting liturgical choral music, including rehearsal techniques, diction, balance, phrasing, interpretation and working with instruments.

Practicum: To gain experience, the student will be assigned to work under a mentor teacher to learn (hands-on) about the day-to-day responsibilities and requirements of the Music Minister. This active learning experience will include written and performance assignments and include evaluations by the mentor teacher. Placements will be according to the student's musical background (keyboard, choral or vocal).

Liturgical Music and Documents: The historical development of Sacred Music in the Catholic Tradition, including an in-depth look at the documents of the Church pertaining to music in the liturgy. Students will learn basic chanting skills, the musical modes of Gregorian chant, and focus on the music in the liturgical books of the Church.

Children's Choirs: Techniques for working with children singing in choirs. Including a survey of children's liturgical music literature. Home-schooled students may often be used as a resource.

Chant: A study and practice of chant. An historical survey of Gregorian chant and its place in the liturgy. Latin chant and chant in other languages.

Archdiocesan Choir: Participation in Archdiocesan Choir rehearsals, singing at masses, offices and other services.

Survey of Sacred Choral Literature: Historical survey of sacred choral literature and its application in a liturgical church setting.

Organ Literature: Historical survey of organ literature and its application in a liturgical church setting.

The Organ in Worship: A practical study of organ playing for masses and other services. Topics include hymn playing, anthem accompaniment, improvisation, and a survey of liturgical organ repertoire.

Special Topics: Selected topic within the area of sacred music.

Graduate School of Theology Course: A theology course of the student's choosing.