

Guidelines for Music Presentations in St. John's Church

The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art. The main reason for this pre-eminence is that, as sacred song united to the words, it forms a necessary or integral part of the solemn liturgy. (Sacrosanctum Concilium, Chapter VI, 113)

The music played outside the liturgies at the church of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church should always be of sacred nature. The space used for the performances is, first and foremost, a sacred place, where the sacraments of the Church are celebrated. Union of content with the teachings of the Catholic faith, and never contrary to them, should be the guide to evaluate the appropriateness of the repertoire to be presented.

Themes related to sadness, pain, darkness, anger, or similar, should have a relation with Christian beliefs and reflect the hope of the resurrection.¹

Instrumentalist and choir members are welcome to use the front space of the church and the steps to the sanctuary, leaving the highest step, the sanctuary, free of use. The sanctuary is the area reserved specifically to the celebration of the Holy Mass and where the Word of God is spoken from.²

When only instrumental music is to be played, it should always reflect the beauty of God the Creator and His creation³, beauty that respects the dignity of the sacred place and helps to the edification of the faithful.

The repertoire submitted by the choirs or instrumental ensembles will have to be approved by the Pastor, the Music Director, and any other committees appointed by the church for that purpose, prior to the date of their presentation.

St. John's welcomes all music groups and ensembles to its beautiful sacred space and kindly asks for the acceptance of these guidelines.



¹ For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.
2 Corinthians 4:16.

² They are to make a sanctuary for me, that I may dwell in their midst.

³ For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him. Colossians 1:16.