



**Diocese of Salt Lake City
Office of Worship
Minister of Music**

The Liturgical Music Minister plays a critical part in encouraging communities to actively participate in liturgy through singing the principal parts meant to be sung at Mass (c.f. Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 112). Musicians help uplift the congregation to true worship of God through the liturgy of the Mass. The experience is meant to be less of a performance and more of an opportunity to simply lead the congregation in raising their voices to God.

Choir members, like all liturgical ministers, should exercise their ministry with evident faith and should participate in the entire liturgical celebration, recognizing that they are servants of the Liturgy and members of the gathered assembly. (Sing to the Lord, Music in Divine Worship, #28)

The cantor, especially when no choir is present, is both a singer and a leader of congregational song. As a leader of congregational song, the cantor should take part in singing with the entire gathered assembly. To promote the singing of the liturgical assembly, the cantor's voice should not be heard above the congregation. (Sing to the Lord, Music in Divine Worship, #37)

The psalmist, or "cantor of the psalm," proclaims the Psalm after the first reading and leads the gathered assembly in singing the refrain. The psalmist may also, when necessary, intone the Gospel Acclamation and verse. Although this ministry is distinct from the role of the cantor, the two ministries are often entrusted to the same person. (Sing to the Lord, Music in Divine Worship, #34)

The primary role of the organist, other instrumentalists, or instrumental ensemble is to lead and sustain the singing of the assembly and of the choir, cantor, and psalmist, without dominating or overpowering them. (Sing to the Lord, Music in Divine Worship, #41)