



DIocese OF MANCHESTER DIOCESAN ORGANIST TRAINING PROGRAM

“In the Latin Church the pipe organ is to be held in high esteem, for it is the traditional musical instrument which adds a wonderful splendor to the Church’s ceremonies and powerfully lifts up man’s mind to God and to higher things.” (Sacrosanctum Concilium, article 120)

In collaboration with the Office for Worship, Diocesan and Cathedral Director of Music, Dr. Eric Bermani, is offering a 10-month long program geared towards pianists or organists wishing to improve their skill level! Sacred musicians from parishes in Londonderry (St. Jude), Rochester (Holy Rosary), Manchester (Transfiguration), Lincoln (St. Joseph), Concord (Christ the King), and Peterborough (Divine Mercy) have already participated.

Based on a master-class type of model, this program meets twice a month (Saturdays, 10-2 accounting for 80 hours) and is capped at 10 participants to allow for sufficient one-on-one time between student and instructor. The program will move monthly to each participant’s church allowing the students to play different instruments – both pipe and electronic – in varied acoustical settings. We will examine each particular scenario to determine how to meet certain challenges in the space and find the best path to accomplish the various tasks and goals affecting all liturgical musicians.

The program will cover:

- Devising and utilizing appropriate registrations for a variety of liturgical situations; developing a working understanding of proper stops
- Choral and instrumental ensemble accompaniment
- Leading and supporting assembly song through creative and motivating hymn, ritual and service music accompaniment
- Utilizing Gregorian chant and possible accompaniment
- Accompanying Cantors and soloists
- Directing from the console
- Music for wedding and funeral liturgies
- Improvisation and free-style accompaniment
- Reviewing accessible and relevant organ repertoire
- Direct study opportunities
- Program will cover all instruction materials but students will be responsible to purchase their own musical scores in consultation with instructor
- Certificate of Completion will be awarded to each student at the end of the program

The program will run from June 2023 through to March 2024.

For questions or to apply, please contact Diocesan and Cathedral Director of Music, Dr. Eric Bermani at 603-622-6404, x17 or e-mail EBermani@stjosephcathedralnh.org