



Tips for Singers Seeking Work in Religious Organizations

Compiled by the [Music Entrepreneurship & Career Center](#), Updated August 2016

Also see:

- [Church/Synagogue Job Search Sites](#)
- [Selected Church/Synagogue Jobs in the Baltimore/DC Region](#)

The Audition

Etiquette: Standard professional audition etiquette applies (see: [Audition Tips](#)).

Repertoire: Bring thoroughly learned, appropriate material. Art and sacred songs preferred.

Attire: Dress professionally; show music directors you would represent their organizations well.

Vocalizing: Be prepared to sing an exercise that demonstrates your range.

Sight-reading: Jobs are frequently won by the strongest sight-readers. Expect to sight-read both accompanied and unaccompanied excerpts.

Attitude: Be pleasant and respectful; show that you'd be a good ambassador for the organization.

Schedule: Come with your schedule in hand. Music directors often need to book singers months in advance for special events such as weddings, evensongs, and holiday services.

Liturgy: Familiarize yourself with the liturgy and order of service of the organization before you audition (see below for information about different liturgies).

Rehearsal Practices

Preparation: All music should be performance-ready at the first rehearsal. Bring pencils and water to every rehearsal.

Respect: Demonstrate respect for the practices and faith of a religious organization regardless of your own beliefs.

Leadership: Section leaders should be able to coach their sections and respond to singer questions.

Acting as Cantor

Singing leaders, frequently termed Cantors, often perform psalms as soloists. Psalm texts are similar among different religious organizations, but musical settings vary.

- Common Psalms: 23, 33, 42, 112, 116, 128, 130, 143, 148.
- [Seasonal Psalms](#)

Information about Christian and Jewish Denominations

[Outline of the Christian Liturgical Year](#)

Common Types of Liturgical Christian Churches

[Baptist Liturgy](#)

- [The Baptist Hymnal](#) (1991)
- [Lectionary](#) (Readings)

[Catholic Liturgy](#) (Roman Catholic)

- [Hymn Database](#)
- [Lectionary](#) (Readings)

[Episcopalian Liturgy](#) (begins page 355)

- [Midi Recordings of the 1982 Hymnal](#)
- [Revised Common Lectionary](#) (Readings)

[Lutheran Liturgy](#) (including Communion)

- [Midi Recordings of the Lutheran Hymnal](#)
- [More detail including scriptural references](#)
- [Revised Common Lectionary](#) (Readings)

[Methodist Liturgy](#) (Selection begins page 18)

- [Midi Recordings of the 1989 Hymnal – Some sheet music included](#)
- [Revised Common Lectionary](#) (Readings)

[Presbyterian Liturgy](#)

- [Further Explanation](#)
- [Book of Common Worship](#)
- [Excerpts from the Presbyterian Hymnal – Some sheet music included](#)
- [Revised Common Lectionary](#) (Readings)

[Reform Church Liturgy](#)

- [Revised Common Lectionary](#) (Readings)

Less Common Christian Churches in the Baltimore Region

[Byzantine Catholic Liturgy](#) (Eastern Orthodox)

- [Cantor Recordings](#)
- [Byzantine Catholic Lectionary](#) (Readings)

[Orthodox Liturgy](#) (Russian Orthodox)

- [Orthodox Lectionary](#) (Readings)

Common Types of Jewish Synagogues

[Outline of the Jewish Holidays](#)

[Jewish Liturgy](#) (General)

- [Guide to Synagogue Worship](#)

[Reform Jewish Liturgy](#)

- [Reform Prayers for Shabbat Service](#)

[A History of the Jewish Liturgy](#)