

UMary Cantor Notes – how to be the best cantor you can be: DOMINICK GOETTLE

- Before coming to rehearsal, it is always beneficial to look up the text of the psalm or alleluia on USCCB.org or another resource and to pray with that scripture.
- Always sing with your best tone, but with a timbre appropriate for responsorial singing in our chapel – a clear and resonant sound without too much vibrato (think like beautiful bell tone filling the space).
- Be attentive to the organ and allow your voice to flow together with its sound, gently resonating throughout the chapel. You and the organist must be a team.
- Use lots of constant air and good diction – taste the words on your lips.
- Always remember, you are praying the psalm and inviting others into your prayer.
- Dress nicely for mass – set a good example.
- Be confident.

For the Psalm:

- Immediately after the first reading, stand up with your folder in one hand at your side, and walk to the foot of the altar.
- Bow together with the reader and walk up to the lectern.
- Sometimes I like to say a quick Hail Mary at this point.
- Open the folder, set the Mic, and breath.
- The Mic should be at the same level as your mouth, about 8-12in away, pointing directly at your mouth - *not* sideways. (Directly over the center of the lectern is good placement).
- Psalm. Guide the congregation with your breathing, your eyes, and your posture.
- **Do *not* raise your hand to lead.**
- Close the folder in one hand at your side, walk to the foot of the altar, bow (if there's a second reading, wait to bow with the reader), and return to your seat.

For the Gospel Acclamation:

- The Gospel Acclamation always sings at the standing microphone behind the organ.
- Before mass, set the mic stand to the desired height (slightly below where your mouth is). Do not yank or pull the mic stand; always unscrew and move carefully.
- Get to the Mic early so you are ready as soon as the priest stands. On Wednesdays, go to the Mic before the psalm. On Sundays, go to the Mic before the 2nd reading.
- Wait for the priest to stand up.
- Gospel Acclamation.
- Remain standing by the organ for the gospel.
- Return to your seat after the gospel is finished.

For the Communion Antiphon:

- The Communion Antiphon always sings at the standing microphone behind the organ.
- Get to the mic during the Lamb of God.
- Set the mic stand to the desired height (slightly below where your mouth is). Do not yank or pull the mic stand; always unscrew and move carefully.
- Kneel for the elevation of the Eucharist.
- As the presider takes the Precious Blood, stand and prepare to sing.
- Communion Antiphon.
- Go to communion and return to your seat.

Pray the rest of the mass and take joy in the fact that you have beautified the liturgy through sharing the gift of your prayer.