

## **REASONS IN SUPPORT of composing music for the ancient Roman Gradual antiphons (“SUNG PROPER”) rather than the 1969 Sacramentary antiphons (“SPOKEN PROPER”) :**

1. As Bishop Trautman correctly pointed out in November of 2007, the Sacramentary texts were never meant to be sung. Authentic renewal looks at the *original* purpose, rather than abuses which may have happened in the past.
2. Only the “American Adaptation” of the GIRM includes the Sacramentary texts as **FIRST OPTION** (due to a semantic error which Christoph Tietze’s persistence helped correct). The Universal GIRM lists only the Roman Gradual as 1st option.
3. The order of the GIRM is hierarchical; if it were not, the first three options would be redundant.
4. The music & texts of the Roman Gradual are incredibly ancient, whereas the “spoken” revisions date from 1969. When it comes to the liturgy, history is important.
5. While it is not forbidden to set the Sacramentary texts to music, there is no tradition of doing this, since they date from 1969. For more than 1500 years, each chant in the *Graduale* has possessed a particular “character” which composers normally try to preserve when transferring the chant in the vernacular. This is utterly impossible when it comes to the Sacramentary chants, which didn’t exist prior to 1969.
6. No one has pointed out anything deficient or unsatisfactory about the ancient texts of the Roman Gradual.
7. While it is true that Sacramentary texts can be sung under current Church law in the United States, many other texts can also replace the *Graduale* option—including all options would be utterly impossible.
8. Catholics in the United States suffer from a lack of liturgical knowledge, usually due to poor instruction. Presenting them with a whole bunch of liturgical “options”—and there is technically no limit to the substitutions that could be lawfully chosen—seems counterproductive.
9. The Second Vatican Council envisioned a liturgy with both Latin & the vernacular. Parishes desiring to occasionally employ the official Latin propers cannot do so if the Sacramentary texts are chosen.