The Second Vatican Council solemnly declared that: “The treasury of sacred music [Thesaurus Musicae Sacrae] is to be preserved and fostered with great care.” Unfortunately, for reasons known only to God, many priests and bishops—starting in the 1970s—have interpreted the words “preserved and fostered with great care” to mean “banished, condemned, and outlawed.” (Much more could be said about this, but the time is not now.)

Let’s not become discouraged or “throw in the towel.” A holier plan of action would seem to be introducing the Thesaurus Musicae Sacrae to congregations in a way that’s gentle and non-threatening. The following “choral extension” for the Opening Hymn might be just the ticket. Indeed, this could be applied to a Communion Hymn or Offertory Hymn—for instance, if your choir sings the Introit after the Opening Hymn (as the priest incenses the Altar).

It works well with many hymns in Bb-Major or F-Major. To get ideas, search the Brébeuf Hymn Portal [https://www.ccwatershed.org/brebeuf/list/] for melodies such as: Winchester New, St. Anne, All Saints, Regent Square, Song 34, Stuttgart, Rustington, and so forth.

**THE BRÉBEUF COLLECTION**, with its marvelous Choral Supplement and 3-volume (spiral bound) Organ Accompaniment, has been described as “the peerless and indispensable resource for any parish musician serious about authentic Catholic music.”  •  [https://ccwatershed.org/hymn/](https://ccwatershed.org/hymn/)
And now, the Chabanel extension:

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