

SCHEDULE FOR SACRED MUSIC SYMPOSIUM 2025

In the event of unforeseen conflicts, we reserve the right to make adjustments to this schedule.

This schedule was last updated on 12 February 2025.

Location • With the exception of the TLM wedding being sung at Sacred Heart Parish in Grand Rapids, MI—where PALESTRINA500 is happening—**all Symposium events** will take place on the campus of Saint Mary’s Catholic Church: 239 W Clay Ave • Muskegon, MI 49404.

* As per the exhortation (6 July 2016) by the Vatican’s chief liturgist, all Masses at Saint Mary’s are offered *ad orientem*.

Events marked in **yellow** are mandatory.

	Monday (23 June)	Tuesday (24 June)	Wednesday (25 June)	Thursday (26 June)	Friday (27 June)	Saturday (28 June)	Sunday (29 June)
8:30am	<p>* In the past, our symposium had various themes: Roman Catholic hymnody; how to build a children’s choir; 16th-century counterpoint; different ways to accompany Gregorian Chant on the organ; and so forth. This year, we narrow our focus to one main theme:</p>	<p>8:30am - 9:50am : “29 Tips” (Part 2 of 5) Why do some choirs sound unpleasant? No matter what style of music you’re doing—even plainsong—it ought to sound attractive & beautiful (in spite of what some claim). Jeff Ostrowski provides 29 tips on how to stand in front of a volunteer choir and live to tell the tale! This lecture is called: “29 Tips: Avoiding Common Pitfalls For Parish Choirs.”</p>	<p>8:30am - 9:50am : “29 Tips” (Part 3 of 5) Why do some choirs sound unpleasant? No matter what style of music you’re doing—even plainsong—it ought to sound attractive & beautiful (in spite of what some claim). Jeff Ostrowski provides 29 tips on how to stand in front of a volunteer choir and live to tell the tale! This lecture is called: “29 Tips: Avoiding Common Pitfalls For Parish Choirs.”</p>	<p>8:30am - 9:50am : “29 Tips” (Part 4 of 5) Why do some choirs sound unpleasant? No matter what style of music you’re doing—even plainsong—it ought to sound attractive & beautiful (in spite of what some claim). Jeff Ostrowski provides 29 tips on how to stand in front of a volunteer choir and live to tell the tale! This lecture is called: “29 Tips: Avoiding Common Pitfalls For Parish Choirs.”</p>	<p>8:30am - 9:50am : “29 Tips” (Part 5 of 5) All instruction today deals with how to recruit choir members.</p>	<p>On Saturday, we travel to Grand Rapids—40+ minutes from Muskegon—to Sacred Heart Parish (where PALESTRINA500 is being held): 151 Garfield Ave SW Grand Rapids, MI 49504 There, we’ll sing for a TLM wedding (which begins at 12:30pm). Saturday’s dress rehearsal—with professional members of Jonathan Bading’s choir—will begin at 9:30am.</p>	<p>Call time for the dress rehearsal on Sunday morning is 8:45am.</p>
10:00am	<p><i>Avoiding Common Pitfalls of Parish Choirs.</i></p> <p>* <i>For the record: Nothing is scheduled on Monday morning because many are arriving at the airport.</i></p>	<p>10:00am - Noon : Interactive Rehearsal This is not a “normal” rehearsal. It is “interactive”—i.e. it demonstrates how a rehearsal should be run & demands feedback from participants. Jeff Ostrowski will focus on the pieces by Morales, Gombert, & the Palestrina Alleluia. He’ll talk about the importance of “Plan B Polyphony” specifically vis-à-vis the Kyrie.</p>	<p>10:00am - Noon : Interactive Rehearsal This is not a “normal” rehearsal. It is “interactive”—i.e. it demonstrates how a rehearsal should be run & demands feedback from participants. Jeff Ostrowski will focus on the pieces by Morales, Gombert, & the Palestrina Alleluia. He’ll talk about the importance of “Plan B Polyphony” specifically vis-à-vis the Kyrie.</p>	<p>10:00am - Noon : Interactive Rehearsal This is not a “normal” rehearsal. It is “interactive”—i.e. it demonstrates how a rehearsal should be run & demands feedback from participants. Jeff Ostrowski will focus on the pieces by Morales, Gombert, & the Palestrina Alleluia. He’ll talk about the importance of “Plan B Polyphony” specifically vis-à-vis the Kyrie.</p>	<p>10:00am - Noon : Interactive Rehearsal This is not a “normal” rehearsal. It is “interactive”—i.e. it demonstrates how a rehearsal should be run & demands feedback from participants. Jeff Ostrowski will focus on the pieces by Morales, Gombert, & the Palestrina Alleluia. He’ll talk about the importance of “Plan B Polyphony” specifically vis-à-vis the Kyrie.</p>	<p>There, we’ll sing for a TLM wedding (which begins at 12:30pm). Saturday’s dress rehearsal—with professional members of Jonathan Bading’s choir—will begin at 9:30am.</p>	<p>We will sing the 10:00am (Ordinary Form) parish Mass at Saint Mary’s.</p>
12:10pm	<p>12:10pm • Mass at St. Mary’s (Novus Ordo ad orientem)</p>	<p>12:10pm - 1:10pm Lunch Many restaurants are near the church campus; e.g. right across the street is a brand new food court w/ Vietnamese cuisine, Mexican cuisine, etc.</p>	<p>12:10pm - 1:10pm Lunch Many restaurants are near the church campus; e.g. right across the street is a brand new food court w/ Vietnamese cuisine, Mexican cuisine, etc.</p>	<p>12:10pm • Mass at St. Mary’s (Novus Ordo ad orientem)</p>	<p>12:10pm • Mass at St. Mary’s (Latin Novus Ordo) We’ll sing something relatively simple for this Mass.</p>	<p>PRIVATE composition lessons with Kevin Allen will be scheduled during the week on an individual basis. Potential spots are outlined with red ink.</p>	<p>Holy Mass is how SACRED MUSIC SYMPOSIUM 2025 will conclude.</p>
1:10pm	<p>1:10pm - 1:40pm Registration Come register, get your free booklet (containing all musical scores), & socialize with other participants.</p>	<p>1:20pm - 2:50pm Plainsong (Carmen Gregorianum) Kaitrin Drost will instruct the female participants in <i>Carmen Gregorianum</i> (“Gregorian Chant”).</p>	<p>1:20pm - 2:50pm Plainsong (Carmen Gregorianum) Kaitrin Drost will instruct the female participants in <i>Carmen Gregorianum</i> (“Gregorian Chant”).</p>	<p>1:00pm - 2:00pm Lunch Many restaurants are near the church campus; e.g. right across the street is a brand new food court w/ Vietnamese cuisine, Mexican cuisine, etc.</p>	<p>1:00pm - 2:00pm Lunch Many restaurants are near the church campus; e.g. right across the street is a brand new food court w/ Vietnamese cuisine, Mexican cuisine, etc.</p>	<p>2:10pm - 2:50pm Wedding Dress Rehearsal This won’t take place in Grand Rapids—it will be on Saint Mary’s campus.</p>	<p>Holy Mass is how SACRED MUSIC SYMPOSIUM 2025 will conclude.</p>
2:10pm	<p>1:50pm - 3:50pm Optional Sectionals</p>	<p>Corrinne May will instruct the male participants in <i>Carmen Gregorianum</i> (“Gregorian Chant”).</p>	<p>Corrinne May will instruct the male participants in <i>Carmen Gregorianum</i> (“Gregorian Chant”).</p>	<p>2:10 - 2:50pm Plainsong (Carmen Gregorianum) <i>Divisi like Tuesday & Wednesday</i></p>	<p>2:10pm - 2:50pm Wedding Dress Rehearsal This won’t take place in Grand Rapids—it will be on Saint Mary’s campus.</p>	<p>3:00pm • Confessions <i>Saint Mary’s Church</i> 239 W Clay Ave Muskegon, MI 49440 Any who wish to go are encouraged to do so.</p>	<p>Holy Mass is how SACRED MUSIC SYMPOSIUM 2025 will conclude.</p>
3:00pm	<p>Kevin Allen will lead men (who wish to participate) in sectional rehearsals. Kaitrin Drost will do likewise with the women.</p>	<p>3:00pm - 5:00pm Plenary Rehearsal Kevin Allen will run this rehearsal. Items he’ll focus on include: Newman’s “Lead Kindly Light”; the Gloria commissioned for Sacred Music Symposium 2025; and “Quam Dilecta.”</p>	<p>3:00pm - 5:00pm Plenary Rehearsal Kevin Allen will run this rehearsal. Items he’ll focus on include: Newman’s “Lead Kindly Light”; the Gloria commissioned for Sacred Music Symposium 2025; and “Quam Dilecta.”</p>	<p>3:00pm - 5:00pm Plenary Rehearsal Kevin Allen will run this rehearsal. Items he’ll focus on include: Newman’s “Lead Kindly Light”; the Gloria commissioned for Sacred Music Symposium 2025; and “Quam Dilecta.”</p>	<p>3:00pm - 5:00pm Plenary Rehearsal Kevin Allen will run this rehearsal. Items he’ll focus on include: Newman’s “Lead Kindly Light”; the Gloria commissioned for Sacred Music Symposium 2025; and “Quam Dilecta.”</p>	<p>3:00pm - 4:00pm How to create & typeset gorgeous Gregorian Chant scores Jeff Ostrowski will present this workshop. Those who need to leave early due to PALESTRINA500 are welcome to leave early.</p>	<p>Holy Mass is how SACRED MUSIC SYMPOSIUM 2025 will conclude.</p>
4:00pm	<p>4:00pm - 5:00pm Keynote Address “Palestrina500 and Evangelization through Beauty”</p>	<p>Corrinne May might use some of this rehearsal for Palestrina’s “Ave Maria.”</p>	<p>Corrinne May might use some of this rehearsal for Palestrina’s “Ave Maria.”</p>	<p>Corrinne May might use some of this rehearsal for Palestrina’s “Ave Maria.”</p>	<p>Corrinne May might use some of this rehearsal for Palestrina’s “Ave Maria.”</p>	<p>3:00pm • Confessions <i>Saint Mary’s Church</i> 239 W Clay Ave Muskegon, MI 49440 Any who wish to go are encouraged to do so.</p>	<p>Holy Mass is how SACRED MUSIC SYMPOSIUM 2025 will conclude.</p>
5:10pm	<p>Jonathan Bading; choirmaster & organist at Sacred Heart Parish in Grand Rapids, where Palestrina500 is happening</p> <p>5:10pm - 7:00pm : “29 Tips” (Part 1 of 5) Why do some choirs sound unpleasant? No matter what style of music you’re doing—even plainsong—it ought to sound attractive & beautiful (in spite of what some claim). Jeff Ostrowski provides 29 tips on how to stand in front of a volunteer choir and live to tell the tale! This lecture is called: “29 Tips: Avoiding Common Pitfalls For Parish Choirs.”</p>	<p>5:10pm - 6:10pm Rhythm of Plainsong Jeff Ostrowski will discuss what every serious Catholic musician should know about this fascinating topic.</p>	<p>5:10pm - 6:10pm Repertoire for 3 Voices Kaitrin Drost will give examples of repertoire for three voices that will take your breath away—and her two daughters will help her demonstrate!</p>	<p>5:10pm - 6:10pm Palestrina “Ave Maria” Rehearsal Corrinne May will run this rehearsal & conduct this piece.</p>	<p>Friday Night There are three options : (a) Palestrina500 has a concert by four men (a group called “Floriani”) at Sacred Heart in Grand Rapids. 5:30pm Holy Hour with 7:00pm TLM. Details are here: https://www.sacredheartgr.org/palestrina500 (b) For those unable to drive to Grand Rapids for Palestrina500, Jeff is giving an exclusive tour of the CCWatershed Library of Rare Liturgical Books, located 4 minutes from Saint Mary’s in Muskegon. (c) Rest for Saturday’s events.</p>	<p>4:00pm • Mass at St. Mary’s (Novus Ordo ad orientem) This is the parish “anticipated” Mass on Saturday night.</p> <p>5:15pm - 7:00pm Interactive Rehearsal This is no “normal” rehearsal. It’s “interactive”—that is, Jeff demonstrates how rehearsals should be run & requires feedback from participants. Jeff Ostrowski will focus on the pieces by Morales, Gombert, & the Palestrina Alleluia. He’ll talk about the importance of “Plan B Polyphony” specifically vis-à-vis the Kyrie.</p>	<p>Holy Mass is how SACRED MUSIC SYMPOSIUM 2025 will conclude.</p>
6:15pm	<p>6:15pm - 7:00pm Lecture by Kevin Allen Kevin will offer a “survey” lecture on modern sacred music. *What pieces of contemporary sacred music should every serious Catholic musician be familiar with?*</p>	<p>6:15pm • Holy Mass at St. Mary’s (Bi-Lingual ad orientem) Any who wish to attend are encouraged to do so.</p>	<p>6:15pm • Holy Mass at St. Mary’s (Bi-Lingual ad orientem) Any who wish to attend are encouraged to do so.</p>	<p>6:15pm - 7:00pm Lecture by Corrinne May Corrinne, a platinum singer/songwriter, will tell the fascinating story of establishing a massive volunteer choir—and a choral movement in Singapore—in the OF ... despite numerous obstacles.</p>	<p>6:15pm - 7:00pm Lecture by Corrinne May Corrinne, a platinum singer/songwriter, will tell the fascinating story of establishing a massive volunteer choir—and a choral movement in Singapore—in the OF ... despite numerous obstacles.</p>	<p>4:00pm • Mass at St. Mary’s (Novus Ordo ad orientem) This is the parish “anticipated” Mass on Saturday night.</p> <p>5:15pm - 7:00pm Interactive Rehearsal This is no “normal” rehearsal. It’s “interactive”—that is, Jeff demonstrates how rehearsals should be run & requires feedback from participants. Jeff Ostrowski will focus on the pieces by Morales, Gombert, & the Palestrina Alleluia. He’ll talk about the importance of “Plan B Polyphony” specifically vis-à-vis the Kyrie.</p>	<p>Holy Mass is how SACRED MUSIC SYMPOSIUM 2025 will conclude.</p>
7:00pm	<p>No day will end later than 7:00pm • Because of the various food allergies people have these days, catering will not be provided for the 2025 Symposium . However, innumerable restaurants are near the church (as well as nearby towns, such as Grand Haven)—so participants will have no difficulty obtaining food. Indeed, numerous restaurants located are within 500 yards of the church campus, including a brand new food court across the street with a bar, Vietnamese cuisine, Mexican cuisine, American cuisine, and so forth.</p>						