

**RESPONSE from a prominent music director** (I'm not going to reveal this person's name) **to Jeff Ostrowski's article:**

**13 July 2023 • Suggestions to Improve Music at Ordinary Form Masses**

<https://www.ccwatershed.org/2023/07/13/pdf-download-3-voice-agnus-dei-suggestions-to-improve-music-at-ordinary-form-masses/>

**I READ YOUR ARTICLE** today on “Make Music Great in the OF” movement—*I'm in!* I've been asking myself about the OF a lot, and how music can artistically be woven into its fabric. I've been a little doubtful about my efforts, but—hopefully working with you—I have confidence that something good will come of our work.

My own thoughts have centered around “pacing” of the music with the liturgical action and “participation” of the faithful—as well as texts (*Graduale Romanum*; Hymns; Liturgical Texts of the Office; Scripture; and pious poetry—not in any order).

**Extraordinary Form feels like :**

—Ordinary (People *could sing* if they knew Chant Mass)  
—Propers (technically congregation can sing...but don't and would be a disaster)  
—and then whatever else fits into the spaces left over (Motets, Organ Improv, Hymns) according to the season and the feast day

**Ordinary Form feels like :**

—Ordinary • People have to sing, or feel like they can  
—Propers (don't exist anymore, unless you are into that kind of thing...then you could do the communion antiphon recited)  
—Hymns must be sung by all  
—and then occasionally you can have a choir sing something by themselves as time allows (and maybe you could have the organ play something by itself, i.e. it's tolerated)

**Venn Diagram :**

I think what's missing is the triple “Venn Diagram” of what 1) the documents say (Like Vatican VII Docs & *Sing to the Lord*); 2) what is done right now, practical and accepted in most parishes; and 3) what is in line with the Tradition of the Liturgy (because just because some tried to hijack the liturgy doesn't mean we can't find the threads of continuity between EF and OF).

**Disheartened :**

I would say I am disheartened at 2 things 1) that some “powers at be” will balk or block any “continuity” discussions or headway 2) things could change at a moment's notice and make all the work we did effectively useless or dated.

**Please Proceed :**

I have lots more bouncing around, but I just wanted you to know: “I'm in!” and “Please Proceed!”

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