
Program Descriptions and Requirements

The curriculum for students in the Sacred Music Diploma is tailored to areas where the individual student needs further expertise. This curriculum totals 24 credit hours. The majority of these credit hours are in addition to the hours required for the student's degree program, although some of the Sacred Music Diploma courses may partially fulfill degree program requirements for electives. Coursework for the diploma includes liturgy, theology, children's choirs, repertory, service playing, and improvisation. Internships and working with mentors/coaches are important aspects of the diploma curriculum.

The Sacred Music Diploma is available to MM and DMA students majoring in performance, conducting, or music education and current Eastman undergraduates who wish to add the diploma as a fifth year of study. It should be noted that this diploma is designed primarily for organists, though students in choral conducting, voice, or music education may also apply if they possess significant organ skills. For students whose applied area is not organ, an audition on the organ is required to assess competency. Students admitted to the Diploma will be required to complete a conducting evaluation at the beginning of their first semester to assess current skill level in choral conducting, and to ensure that students have sufficient background to complete the Diploma within the usual timeframe.

Application to the Sacred Music Diploma **requires** the following, in addition to degree program requirements (see below for more information):

- This supplemental application
- An essay submitted with the application that focuses on Sacred Music
- An organ audition (for those applicants whose primary area of study is not organ)
- An interview

Essay Requirement

In your online application, upload the documents listed below. Include your name and document type on each file.

- 1) A detailed personal **résumé** that includes any experience you may have in Sacred Music
- 2) A **personal statement** (maximum three pages) outlining your specific interest in the Eastman School of Music, how you will add to the diversity of the Eastman community, your educational goals, your musical path to date and your intended career path. This is an important part of the admissions assessment. **Do not submit a generic essay.**
- 3) An **essay** giving complete information about yourself, your aims and plans for the future, reasons for entering your chosen field, area of interest in that field, and experience in that field. To facilitate the processing of your file, this document must have a **specific focus on Sacred Music** and be titled: **"ESSAY - SACRED MUSIC DIPLOMA"**. **Upload this essay in Upload Box 3 of the online application.**

Items 1) and 2) are the same items required of all degree candidates. The **essay** (no. 3 above) for the Sacred Music Diploma must be a **different** document than the **personal statement** required of all applicants to Eastman (no. 2 above), though there may be some overlap.

Interview Requirement

For degree candidates, an interview with the Director of the Sacred Music Diploma or a designate will be scheduled for the applicant on the same day as the applicant's degree audition or visit. Those applicants whose applied area is not organ will be scheduled for an organ audition (including hymn playing and anthem accompaniment) in conjunction with the Sacred Music Diploma interview. Applicants should plan to audition in Rochester, and to be available from 9:00am to 6:00pm on the audition day. Do not make travel arrangements until the Admissions Office has confirmed your audition date. All application materials must arrive in the Admissions Office postmarked by December 1.

Diploma information is found online at: http://www.esm.rochester.edu/acad_affairs/sacred.php

Questions about this diploma may be addressed to: Peter DuBois
Director, Sacred Music Diploma
Office of Academic Affairs
Eastman School of Music
26 Gibbs Street
Rochester NY 14604
pdubois@thirdpresbyterian.org

Submit Page 1 with your Application materials; you should keep this page for your reference.