

## Confirmation: Liturgical Music Guidelines

The music selected should be artistically good, liturgically appropriate and pastorally suitable (c.f. Music in Catholic Worship and Liturgical Music Today). Songs that speak of Baptismal dignity, the Paschal Mystery, the call to Christian witness, and empowerment in the Holy Spirit are appropriate. It should be kept in mind that Confirmation "seals" the baptismal experience and hence should be seen intimately linked to an overall theology of initiation in which the Spirit is at work both in Baptism and Confirmation. Music should be selected to highlight those parts of the liturgical rite that are more significant: e.g., Word, the Rite of Confirmation, and the Eucharist.

**Introductory Rites:** The Gathering or Entrance song should create an atmosphere of the praise of God and of celebration. It is particularly appropriate during the Easter season to select anthems that reflect the nature of this liturgical season. Music, either sung or instrumental, should accompany the Rite of Sprinkling, taking into account the baptismal symbolism of the ritual action. The Glory to God may be the song accompanying the Rite of Sprinkling. Other priests or deacons may participate in the Rite of Sprinkling, depending upon the design of the Church and if the optional Rite of Sprinkling is used.

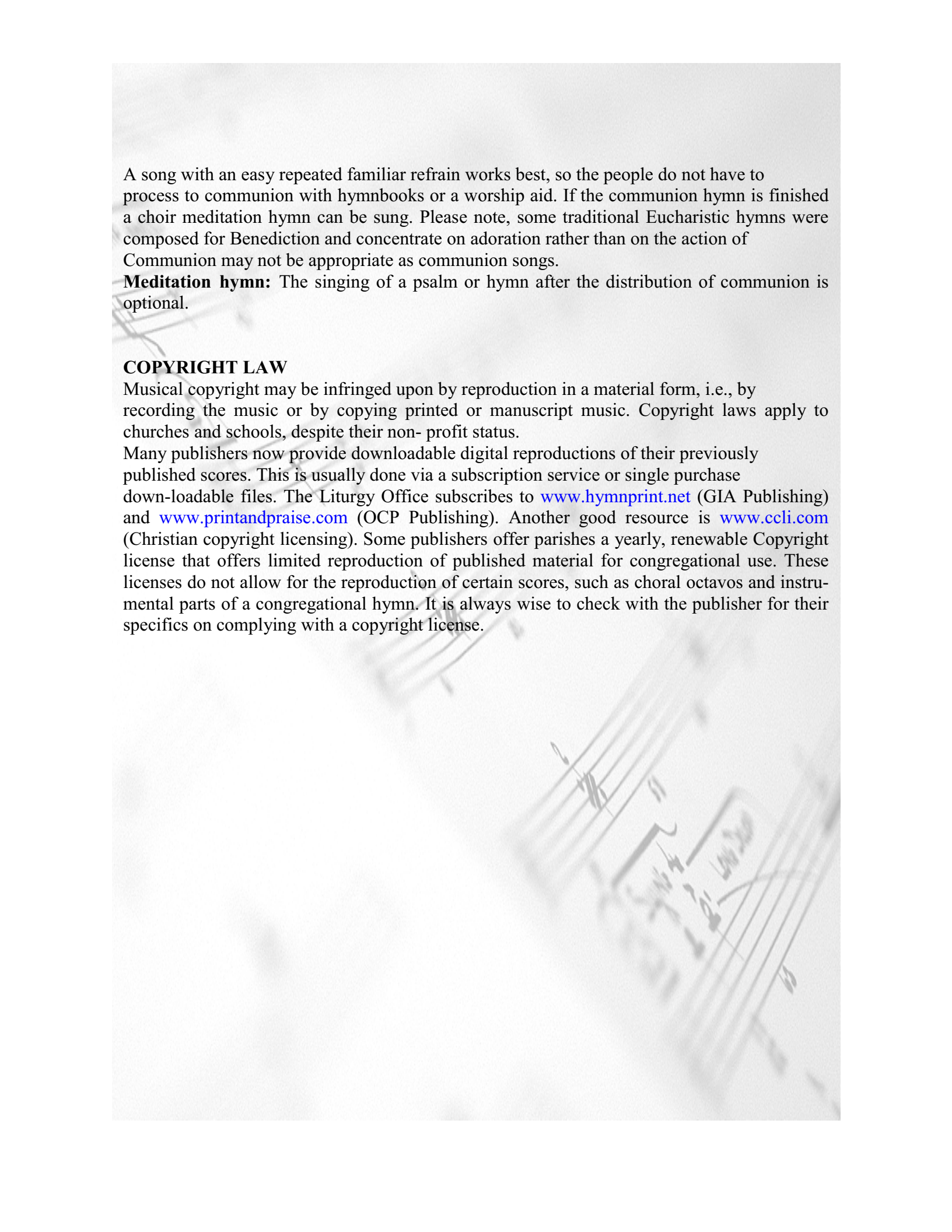
**Liturgy of The Eucharist:** Instrumental music is appropriate during the Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts. The acclamations of the Eucharistic prayer may be rendered musically. The Lord's Prayer need not be sung; however, if sung, the melody should be familiar to all. The Lamb of God is a litany which accompanies the Breaking of the Bread, thus the invocation and response may be repeated as long as the action demands. The Communion song should foster a sense of unity, be simple and not demand great effort. The hymn should be Eucharistic in Nature, speaking of the action that is taking place.

The music should reflect the liturgical season during which the celebration takes place.

**Questions to ask when planning music for a Liturgical Celebration:**

Is the music effective for this congregation? Does music in the celebration enable the people to express their faith, in this place, in this age, in this culture? (MCW, #39) Judgment can be aided by sensitivity to the age, culture, gender, social characteristics and education of the people who make up the congregation. These factors influence the effectiveness of the liturgical signs, including music. (MCW, #41)

**Communion Rite:** As the priest is receiving communion a congregational hymn may begin. (GIRM, #86) The singing is continued for as long as the sacrament is being administered to the faithful. The communion song should foster a sense of unity. It should be simple and give expression to the joy of the unity in the body of Christ and the fulfillment of the mystery being celebrated. It is preferable that communion songs are seasonal in nature during the most important seasons of the Church year. (MCW, #62) Care should be taken that singers are able to receive communion with ease. (GIRM # 86)



A song with an easy repeated familiar refrain works best, so the people do not have to process to communion with hymnbooks or a worship aid. If the communion hymn is finished a choir meditation hymn can be sung. Please note, some traditional Eucharistic hymns were composed for Benediction and concentrate on adoration rather than on the action of Communion may not be appropriate as communion songs.

**Meditation hymn:** The singing of a psalm or hymn after the distribution of communion is optional.

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