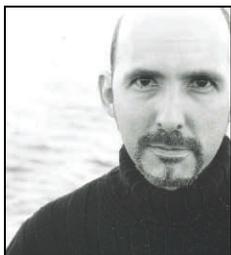


Joe Simmons



Joe Simmons serves as a bilingual (English/Spanish) faculty team leader for the National Association of Pastoral Musicians and leads cantor and lector formation workshops throughout the United States.

A former vocal performance faculty member at New York University, Joe is co-author of *Cantor Basics, Revised Edition* (OCP Publications), and a contributor to *Psalmist and Cantor: A Pastoral Music Resource* (NPM Publications). He has also published articles in *AIM Liturgy Resources*, *Pastoral Music*, and *The Liturgical Singer*.

Joe Simmons earned a master's degree in music performance from New York University, where he also received a Certificate in Personal Coaching. He also completed a Certificate in Contemplative Group Leadership through the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation. He serves as Principal Cantor at the Church of John the Baptist in New York City.

Joe directed and served as a vocal artist on World Library Publications' 8-CD collection, *Psalms and Ritual Music, Recorded Edition*. His two solo albums, *Sudden Waves* and *Singing Out*, on the Oculus Music label, are widely used in healing ministries. His bilingual music videos have been broadcast nationally on the Odyssey Network and Univision.

What makes this program unique?

- Sessions place a strong emphasis on expanding cantors' understanding of their ministry while developing solid skills in interpretation of texts.
- Teaching combines spiritual formation techniques with exercises to enhance expressive skills. This combination of techniques produces more confident leaders, increases practical skills, fosters commitment, encourages spiritual and artistic growth, and produces visible results in parish liturgies.
- The full program includes a follow-up option as a core component. This allows cantors to set tangible goals, receive specific feedback on their leadership in liturgies, and reap the benefits of personal responsibility for their development.

For more information

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Cantor Formation Programs

for

Dioceses and Parishes

Joe Simmons
Clinician

*Inspiring cantors
to inspire prayer.*

[www.OculusMusic.com/
formation.htm](http://www.OculusMusic.com/formation.htm)

Program Objectives

Is your parish cantor program what you want it to be? Do the cantors inspire full, conscious, and active participation? Or are they standing on the brink of their potential without knowing what to do next?

This program can help by:

- Teaching cantors of varied backgrounds and skills how to take the next step toward claiming and developing their pastoral and artistic identity.
- Providing a range of creative formats to fit parish or diocesan needs, from a one-day or weekend cantor workshop to a longer term artist-in-residence program.
- Offering a variety of important topics PLUS observation in liturgies and follow-up to enhance retainment of skills.
- Combining spiritual formation techniques with expressivity exercises to bring sung prayer to life.
- Emphasizing individual goal-setting to achieve tangible results.

Program Content

Typical Friday-Saturday Topics (based on parish needs):

- Introduction and Goal Setting
- Vocal Technique
- Liturgy Basics
- The Cantor's a Leader of Prayer
- Understanding the Psalms
- Prayerful and Artistic Preparation of Psalms
- Song Leadership Techniques
- Interpretation coaching that makes a difference

Follow-Up (based on parish needs):

- Cantor observations at liturgies
- Private coaching sessions on weeknights and Saturday. to address specific issues observed in liturgies.

**Lector workshops also available.
Please inquire for details.**

Benefits for Parishes

- Through skilled cantor leadership, music becomes prayer rather than an embellishment to it.
- Psalms, an important part of this communal prayer, provide a rich spiritual formation tool for worshippers. Cantors who can lead and proclaim these texts effectively are better able to facilitate this process.
- The Introduction to the *Lectio-nary for Mass* prescribes for lectors—and cantors—to be “truly qualified and carefully prepared so that the faithful may develop a warm and living love for Scripture...” (*Lectio-nary for Mass: Introduction*, 55, 56) This formation program embraces this directive by training cantors as prayerful artists in ministry.