

Some Free Online Resources for Church Musicians

<https://hymnary.org/> is an essential resource for church musicians. Find biographical info on hymn writers, composers, hymnal compilers, and more. Search a nearly comprehensive list of hymn tunes, hymn texts, etc.

- Some excellent resources on this site include the melody search, lectionary weeks, and articles. Hymnary is also an excellent resource for finding copyright information.

<http://openhymnal.org/index.html> - Completely free and public domain hymnal project. Might have to sort through a lot of crap to find something good, but if you need a quick PDF of a public domain hymn tune or if you want to try to find an original harmonization, this is a helpful site. You can even download the whole hymnal as one large file, I printed mine out and spiral bound it so I can reference a hard copy whenever I need it.

<https://www.mutopiaproject.org/browse.html> similar to IMSLP but not as comprehensive, a good place with clean scores!

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/index.htm> another place to find PD hymns. I don't like the engraving on this site, but you can often find MIDI recordings to send to singers who learn by rote, pdfs, etc. This site is excellent for finding biographical info on authors and the stories behind hymn texts.

- One interesting thing about this site is its "trivia" tab.

<https://www.pdhymns.com/index.htm> Exactly like it sounds, more public domain hymns. Lots of hymns are available as regular PDFs or as shape notes if you're into that sort of thing! PDFs, hymn texts, MIDI files, Finale 2002 files for some reason... they've got it all. I don't like the PDFs on this site but they'll do in a pinch.

<https://www.canticanova.com/index.html> Good liturgy planning site for the Roman Catholic Church, but useful for other denominations as well. Specifically if you scroll to the bottom (past chant propers and liber usualis stuff) to find suggested hymns, organ voluntaries, and choral music for a given Sunday. Lots of good stuff on there.

https://www.cpdl.org/wiki/index.php/Help:Advanced_search#How_to_search_by_voicing CPDL is a choir director's friend. Often you'll find multiple copies or versions of PD works. Need a copy of Stainer's "God So Loved the World?" They've got it. Don't like the first copy you see? They've got plenty of editions. Need one with a keyboard reduction? They've got it. Etc.

- Search by composer, title, voicing, liturgical season, language.
- Things are listed by title and not always well categorized – so if you don't find something searching in “Lenten music” it doesn't mean it's not on the site, always start by searching the title!

https://imslp.org/wiki/Main_Page We should all know about IMSLP by now. Based in Canada which has different copyright laws than the US, so do be careful and aware of what you're downloading. Their search functions are excellent, you can go by instrument, by voicing, by region, by time period, by title, by category, it's great.

<https://www.ccwatershed.org/> This is a Catholic blog for the most part, but they post a lot of good articles, links, downloads of old hymnals and things like that. You can have a lot of fun on this site – I just found a page with 7 different organ accompaniments to the Alma Redemptoris Mater chant, dealer's choice! Just a warning, they're WICKED Catholic.

<http://lectionarypage.net/> Need to know the readings for Sunday from the revised common lectionary? Here you go!

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/> another lectionary option if lectionarypage.net feels too episcopal for you.

<https://www.google.com/> some search tricks

- filetype:pdf, filetype:xml, filetype:mp3 finds you specific files and cuts out the superfluous results.
- site:imslp.org only returns search results from IMSLP
- site:cpdl.org etc.
- “search term” quotation marks will find you specifically those word or words for which you're searching, no more “did you mean Of Quantum Quality?” getting kicked back at you.
- Intext:_____ will find you pages with that specific text. Heard the first phrase of a hymn and don't know the name? intext:my life goes on in endless song.