



The Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music (PIMS) invites applications for a teaching position in Organ focussing on improvisation, to begin October 2026

The Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music is the University of Music of the Holy See. It was founded in 1911 by Pope Pius X and grants the degrees of Baccalaureate (3 years), Licentiate (2 years) and Doctorate. The courses are taught in Italian.

The Organ Department of PIMS consists of four professors, each with a specific focus: improvisation, early music, 20th-century and contemporary music, and liturgical organ playing. While each professor has a particular specialization, all teach a wide range of repertoire. The successful candidate will be appointed to the chair specializing in improvisation.

The post-holder is required to give 12 hours of lessons per week and will be classified as an Associate Professor (*insegnante aggiunto*), with an annual contract and level VI salary, as provided for in the *Regolamento Generale della Curia Romana*.

The contract may be renewed for three years, at the end of which, after a positive assessment, the Associate Professor (*insegnante aggiunto*) will be eligible for a stable and exclusive role as *professore straordinario*.

Applications should be addressed to the Rector (*Preside*) of the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music and must include:

- a *Curriculum Vitae*
- the completed application form which can be found on the Institute's website <<https://www.musicasacra.va/en/teach-with-us.html>>
- a letter of recommendation from an ecclesiastical authority (Bishop, Superior, Parish Priest, or other).

Applications, including the application form, *curriculum vitae*, and letter of recommendation, must be submitted exclusively via email to <concorso@musicasacra.va> no later than February 28, 2026.

Requirements

- Submission of the application within the prescribed deadline.
- Possession of a postgraduate degree in Organ obtained from PIMS or an equivalent qualification issued by another recognized academic institution.
- At least three years of teaching experience in organ within an academic context.
- Teaching experience in organ improvisation.
- Professional profile characterized by:
 - Wide range of organ literature;
 - Skilled improviser;
 - Liturgical organist;
 - Composer of liturgical music;
 - Competent and experienced pedagogue/teacher;
 - Documented international artistic activity;
 - Team spirit;
 - Knowledge of the Italian language;
 - Knowledge of the English language.

Competition Procedure

A. Tests (Klais Organ, 1984):

Recital (25 minutes)

- A significant composition from the 16th or 17th century (chosen by the candidate)
- Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750), Präludium und Fuge in A minor, BWV 543
- A Romantic or contemporary piece chosen by the candidate

Improvisation (20-30 minutes)

- Improvisation based on “Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten,” inspired by baroque style, containing at least the following variations:
 - Trio
 - Ornamented melody in the Soprano
 - Ornamented melody in the Tenor
 - Fugato with the melody in the Bass (pedal)
- Improvisation on a given theme, provided thirty minutes prior to the test, inspired by Romantic style
- Improvisation on “Ave maris Stella” (free style)

Lectiones coram (15 minutes / 15 minutes)

- With a beginner student: harmonization of a chorale
- With an advanced student: composition of a prelude for Pentecost (“Veni creator”)

B. Interview with the committee

During the tests or the interview, candidates must demonstrate proficiency in both Italian and English. The Selection Committee will be appointed by the Rector of PIMS and will consist of the Rector himself, the Vice Rector, two additional PIMS faculty members, and an external expert. The committee's decisions are final and non-appealable.

The practical test and interview will be held at the PIMS educational premises (Via di Torre Rossa, 21 - 00165 ROMA) from April 20 to 22, 2026.

At the conclusion of the competition, the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music will notify candidates called for the practical tests of the results.

The candidate appointed to the position will be subsequently nominated by the Dicastery for Culture and Education of the Holy See.