



Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music

The Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music (PIMS) invites applications for a teaching position in Organ, focussing on liturgical organ playing, to begin October 2025.

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 liturgical organ playing and will be required to teach students taking the organ as a supplementary subject.

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, accompanied by the form, *curriculum vitae*, and the letter of recommendation, must be sent exclusively by email to <concorso@musicasacra.va>, by March 21, 2025.

Requirements

The candidate must:

- Submit the application within the specified deadlines.
- Be no older than 45 years.
- Hold a postgraduate degree in Organ, obtained from PIMS, or an equivalent qualification from another academic institution that is comparable to a postgraduate degree in the same field.
- Have at least three years of teaching experience in the field of Organ.
- Have a professional profile with the following characteristics:
 1. The proven ability to interpret a wide range of organ literature
 2. Experience as liturgical organist and improviser
 3. Proficient and experienced pedagogue
 4. National or international career and recognition
 5. The ability to work in a team
- Be proficient in the Italian language.
- Be proficient in the English language.

The selection committee will be appointed by the Rector of PIMS and will be composed of five members, including the Rector himself, the Vice Rector, and at least one external expert.

The Application Process

First phase: evaluation of the qualifications and curricula presented.

Second phase: candidates selected in the first phase will be invited to:

1. Perform a 20-minute concert featuring significant compositions from two different musical periods (on an organ by Klais, 1985).
2. Improvise a brief postlude for the Holy Mass of a specified solemnity in a style chosen by the candidate (for example, 17th/18th century (Baroque), 19th century (Romantic), post-Romantic (Impressionistic), or modal).
3. Accompany an Antiphon and a Responsorial Psalm, including the intonation for the response to the psalm.
4. Compose a responsorial psalm for *cantor* and congregation with organ accompaniment within three hours. The text in either Italian or English will be provided by the committee on the day of the examination.
5. Teach a student in a lesson consisting of three parts: a) Technical exercises focusing on three studies for solo pedal (Bossi or Germani) and three studies for pedal and manuals (Schneider). b) Interpretation of a piece selected from eight options. c) Performance of the composed responsorial psalm (see 4) with a cantor and preparation of a student for accompaniment.
6. Be interviewed by the commission.

For examinations 2, 3, 5: Specific information regarding which memorial, feast or solemnity is being celebrated, the Ordinary of the Mass, the Antiphon, and the Psalm, as well as the piece chosen by the student for performance, will be provided

to the candidate one week prior to the examination.

During the examinations, the candidate must demonstrate proficiency in both Italian and English.

The performances will be held at PIMS. At the end of the competition, the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music will communicate the results to the candidates called to the second phase. The candidate invited to receive the teaching position will subsequently be appointed by the Dicastery for Culture and Education of the Holy See. Applicants are not entitled to compensation for the travel and lodging expenses that arise during the application procedure.