



Pontifical Institute
of Sacred Music

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Pontifical Institute
of Sacred Music

Annual Bulletin

2025-2026



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A Message from the Grand Chancellor José Tolentino de Mendonça

Dear Members and Friends of PIMS,
with the publication of our Annual Bulletin for this academic year, I wish to extend my warmest greetings and express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and commitment to the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music.

Our mission remains of fundamental importance: to promote a deeper understanding and an authentic appreciation of sacred music as an essential element of Christian spirituality and worship. At PIMS, we are dedicated to exploring and preserving the profound bond between music and the sacred. The initiatives we undertake aim to inspire scholars, musicians, and the faithful, fostering the growth of a vibrant community in which the beauty of liturgical music can blossom and deeply touch people's hearts.

The Jubilee, with its call to conversion and inner pilgrimage, invites us to a journey of renewal. As Saint Augustine, quoted by Pope Leo XIV, reminds us: "Persevere, advance in virtue, in true faith, and in good conduct. Sing, and keep on walking!" (Sermon 256)

This year, we are dedicated to a variety of activities that will showcase the significance of sacred music in the faith journey of the universal Church. I warmly invite you to participate in these initiatives, which will feature collaborations with prominent ecclesiastical and cultural institutions.

Together, we continue to promote the essential role of sacred music in our lives and in the global mission of the Church. It is our shared commitment to beauty, peace, and spirituality through music that unites us.

With my blessing and best regards.

Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça
Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education
Grand Chancellor of the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music



Greeting from the Rector

Robert Mehlhart

Dear members and friends of PIMS, The Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music, founded by Saint Pius X in 1910, continues to serve as an international center for the study and practice of sacred music, right in the heart of Rome. With over 150 students from 42 countries, PIMS is one of the most international musical institutions worldwide— a place where cultures unite through the universal language of music. Every day, the sung Mass in the morning is broadcast live by Vatican Radio, bringing the voices of PIMS to audiences around the world.

In 2025, we celebrate two significant anniversaries: the 500th anniversary of the birth of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, one of the greatest masters of sacred music. His works, filled with spiritual beauty and celestial harmony, continue to inspire musicians and believers across all generations. During this jubilee year, we wish to renew our reflection on the vital role of music in faith and worship. Additionally, we honor the 275th anniversary of Johann Sebastian Bach's passing with a special series dedicated to this great Christian composer.

Among our ongoing projects, we are pleased to highlight the initiative "Let's Sing with the Pope"—a video series dedicated to teaching Gregorian chant. Its simple but profound goal is to help communities worldwide rediscover and sing together the treasures of sacred music, in communion with the Holy Father and the universal Church.

Thank you for being part of this community committed to promoting beauty, peace, and spirituality through music. We look forward to joining you on this extraordinary journey of faith and musical exploration.

With affection and gratitude,

Fr. Robert Mehlhart OP

Rector of the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music

Celebrating the 500th anniversary of the birth of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

In 2025, the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music celebrated the 500th anniversary of composer Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina's birth, in collaboration with the Pontifical Sistine Choir and the Vatican Library.

The commemoration began with a solemn Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, presided over by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State. Additionally, a concert was held in the Sistine Chapel, along with an international conference, workshops, and various concerts, engaging students, musicians, and the public to rediscover Palestrina's key role in liturgical music.









Degree programs

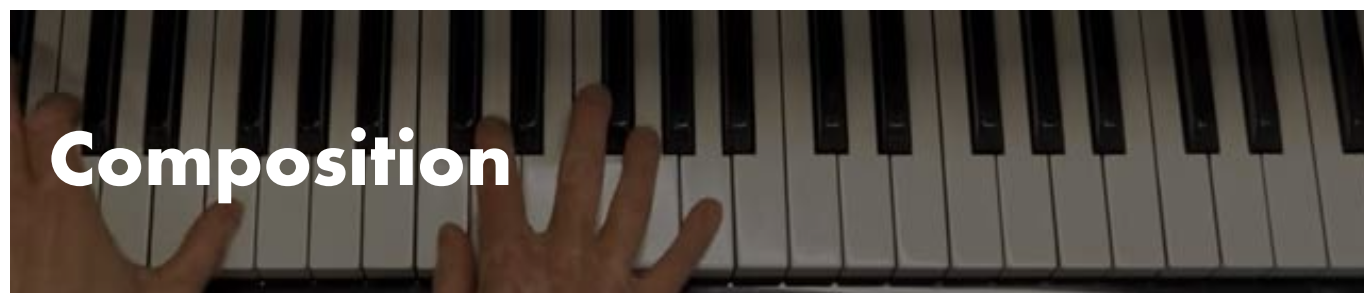


Gregorian Chant

Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the oldest European liturgical music, which also represents the beginning of Western music history. Throughout the program, students will explore the “Cantus proprius” of the Roman liturgy as defined by the Second Vatican Council (SC 116).

Students will study the oldest musical sources from the 9th to 11th centuries, focusing on Gregorian semiology, and will examine both international and local repertoire from late medieval to modern periods. This prepares students to apply their knowledge practically in liturgical contexts as well as in concert settings. The program is designed to help students develop artistic, practical, and academic skills, equipping them for varied professional applications.

The Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music awards the **baccalaureate** (3 years), the **licentiate** (2 years), and the **doctorate** in Gregorian Chant (3 years).



Composition

Students will develop the skills necessary to become competent composers by studying traditional techniques (harmony, counterpoint, and fugue) and engaging with contemporary artistic expressions. This program is designed to help students gain the expertise needed to work professionally, especially in the fields of sacred and liturgical music.

The Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music awards the **bachelor's degree** (3 years), the **licentiate** (2 years), and the **doctorate** in applied musicology (3 years).



Choir Direction

Students will develop the skills required to train and conduct a choir, including comprehensive training in vocal technique. They will learn to understand various genres of Sacred Music from both historical and practical perspectives and explore how these genres interact. Additionally, students will gain experience in conducting choral and orchestral repertoire.

The Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music awards the **baccalaureate** (3 years), the **licentiate** (2 years), and the **doctorate** in applied musicology (3 years).



Organ

Students will develop the technical and theoretical skills necessary to become skilled organists. They will learn to integrate their musical expertise into their personal life of faith, while also preparing for the diverse professional roles of organists beyond liturgical functions, such as performing concerts, teaching, and conducting research.

The Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music awards the **baccalaureate** (3 years), the **licentiate** (2 years), and the **doctorate** in applied musicology (3 years).



Musicology

Students will develop research skills to explore the traditions of sacred music using a variety of interdisciplinary approaches, including religious, social, and technological perspectives. They will gain an understanding of liturgical and musical traditions beyond European Catholic communities, including those of Eastern rites.

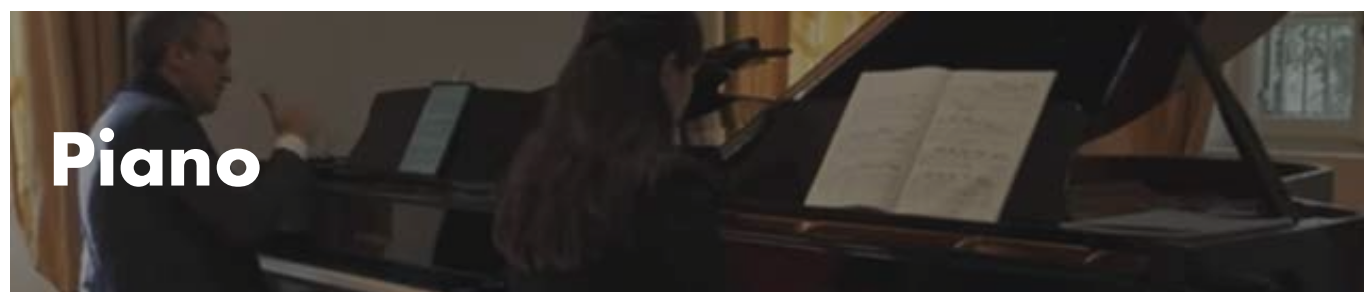
The Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music awards the **baccalaureate** (3 years), the **licentiate** (2 years), and the **doctorate** in musicology (3 years).



Vocal Studies

The program is designed to help students acquire essential singing skills, with a focus on mastering proper diaphragm use and breath support. Throughout the program, students will receive personalized technical training tailored to their individual needs, enabling them to develop their vocal technique and confidently expand their repertoire of sacred music.

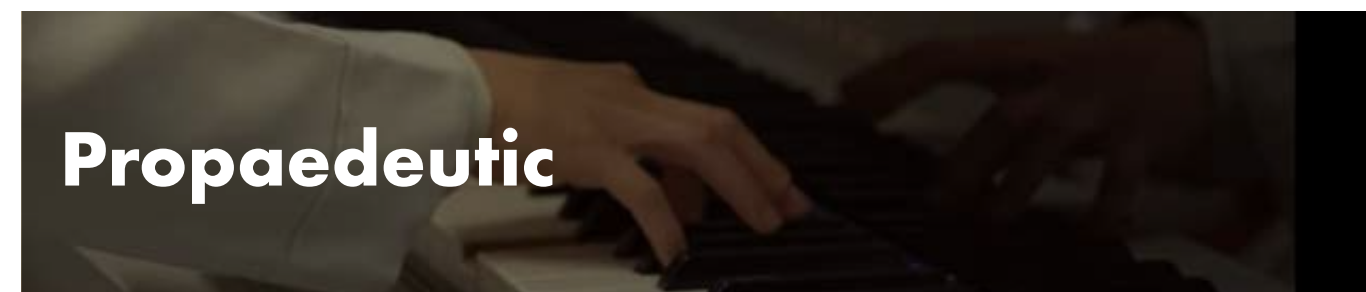
The Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music awards the **baccalaureate** (3 years), the **licentiate** (2 years), and the **doctorate** in applied musicology (3 years).



Piano

The program provides instrumental training for students focusing on piano, and in some cases, serves as a supplementary support to organ training. It may also feature masterclasses conducted by renowned figures from the international musical scene. The areas of specialization include solo performance, chamber music, and teaching.

The Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music awards the **baccalaureate** (3 years), the **licentiate** (2 years), and the **doctorate** in applied musicology (3 years).



Propaedeutic

In the propaedeutic program, students will acquire the essential musical skills needed to prepare effectively for the entrance examination as an admitted student.

By focusing on piano and music theory, students will build a strong foundation within a maximum of two years, equipping them to confidently progress to advanced studies and meet the admission standards.

A photograph of a diverse choir singing in a church, with a red color overlay. A large, stylized, light blue 'Q' logo is positioned on the right side of the image. The text 'Success Stories' is centered over the choir.

Success Stories

Rev. Fr. Booncharat Suksawang (Thailand)

Archdiocese of Bangkok, Thailand
Director, Sacred Music Commission,
Catholic Bishops' Conference of Thailand

Father Booncharat studied composition at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music from 2013 to 2019. It was more than an academic pursuit — it was a profound spiritual and artistic formation.

"Under the guidance of the Maestri, I discovered not only the technical richness of sacred music but also its theological depth and pastoral vision.

Thailand is a country deeply rooted in Buddhism, yet welcoming to other faiths, including Catholicism, which remains a minority. After the pandemic, I revitalized the Youth Choir of Assumption Cathedral in Bangkok. Although most members come from diverse faith backgrounds, sacred music has become a shared journey — a gentle bridge that unites them in harmony and quietly plants a seed of grace through beauty.

As a priest, I teach at the national seminary, serve in Catholic schools, lecture at universities, and direct both the national and diocesan offices for sacred music. I collaborate with parish and professional choirs to promote sacred music in this mission land — where the liturgy must sing with the universality of the Church and the distinctiveness of Thai culture. Today, the echoes of chant and polyphony from the Cappella of the Institute in Rome extend far and wide — resonating through cultural rhythms and sacred harmonies in this Land of Smiles."

Fr. Booncharat was recently awarded the "Petch Rattanakosin" (Rattanakosin Diamond) Award in the category of "Educator Promoting the Development of Music," conferred by the Minister of Education in Thailand, 2025.



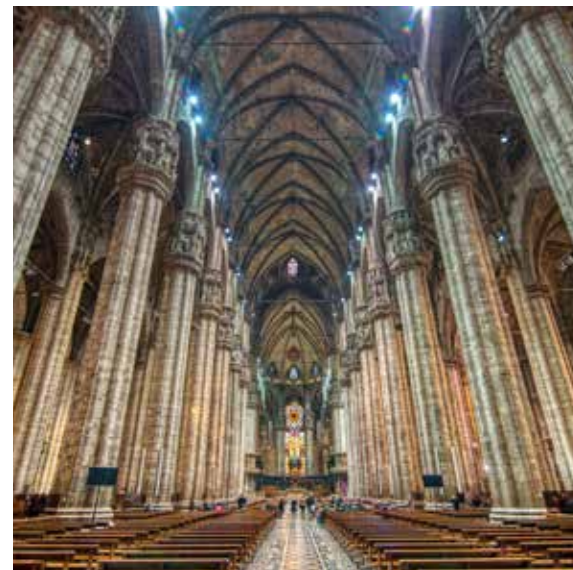
Alberto Sala (Italy)

Director of Music at the Cathedral in Milan

In 2017, Alberto Sala began his specialization at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music in Rome, majoring in Organ, driven by the desire to deepen his knowledge of Sacred Music and to engage with a broader vision of the musical ministry.

Under the guidance of Prof. P. Theo Flury OSB, he experienced an intense formation, not only from a technical and artistic point of view, but also on a human and spiritual level. For him, the lessons at the PIMS became more than just technical training: “they were a workshop of life, where I learned to live music as prayer, as service, as a liturgical act that goes beyond mere aesthetic beauty.”

“For me, it is essential to place music at the service of the liturgy, always seeking a balance between rigor and inspiration, between tradition and renewal. From PIMS I carry with me the value of attentive listening and of the continuous search for meaning. Every note, every musical choice is part of a larger dialogue. The appointment I received in Milan is a gift, but also a challenge: to remain faithful to what has guided me so far, with gratitude, passion, and determination.”



Sister Rosemary Esseff, OP (USA)

Director of Music for the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia in Nashville, Tennessee

With a Licentiate and a Doctorate in Composition obtained from PIMS, Sister Rosemary Esseff stands out as a leading figure in liturgical music within her community, recognized as one of the most dynamic and rapidly growing in the United States.

Her extraordinary expertise and unwavering passion have profoundly transformed the worship experience, creating a vibrant atmosphere rich in spirituality and musical beauty. Sister Rosemary's commitment has had a significant impact on the growth and vitality of her congregation.

"At the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music, I was immersed in the beauty of the "Roman School" of chant and polyphony, learning to compose with both the freedom of rich modality and the discipline of counterpoint. That formation taught me to let the music serve the Word, following the natural rhythm and emphasis of the sacred text. Today, these skills are bearing fruit as I compose the new translation of the Psalter for my Dominican community, drawing deeply from both our own heritage and the treasures I received at PIMS."

Sister Rosemary believes that Catholics would fill their churches all over the world if they could experience a beautiful performance of chant and polyphony in the liturgy.



Who we are




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Patrizia Mocavini



Ivana Tundo

Interview

with Fr. Theo Flury OSB

Fr. Theo Flury OSB is a monk of Einsiedeln Abbey in Switzerland and Full Professor of Organ at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music (PIMS). His book *Verso l'improvvisazione organistica* was published in two volumes in 2023 by the Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

When did you study at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music? What memories do you have of that time?

I studied organ and composition at PIMS from 1982 to 1988. They were wonderful years, full of great musical, spiritual, and human discoveries — and, above all, the realization that these three dimensions are not separate worlds, but are intimately connected to each other. The period of my studies and the period of my teaching were separated by fifteen years of professional activity in Switzerland. I returned to Rome certainly more mature and with a wealth of professional experience in my background.

In your opinion, what are the fundamental principles in teaching organ improvisation today?

They are the same as always: a solid knowledge of harmony, counterpoint, and musical forms, and perhaps most importantly, the curiosity and the freedom to take the plunge; that elusive need to express oneself.

What has been the importance of the PIMS in your artistic and human journey? What did you learn there that you still consider essential?

It was a protected world of study without haste, which also allowed time to let things mature, to chew over, to ruminate, and to assimilate the content. Music can be explained in just a few hours. What really matters is practice — for many long years, even beyond the limits of academic study. In this sense, one remains a student until death.



How do you explain the connection between faith, personal expression, and music? How is this connection manifested in your musical practice and teaching?

The question seems simple, but it is not. A Christian person, in order to choose and to act, must integrate the data of revelation with the facts of the realities of the world — both outside and within themselves. A person is constantly confronted with the need to interpret and to understand. Music can become a symbol (*syn-ballein*: to put together, to unite) in this fundamental and ongoing process — a place where something becomes clear in terms of meaning, allowing one to take a temporary vantage point on the whole — beyond concepts and notions.

If you could have someone who has never heard sacred music listen to just one organ piece, which would you choose — and why that one?

Probably one of the chorales from Johann Sebastian Bach's *Orgelbüchlein*. They are short — but not small! — compositions. In just a few bars, the art appears... as light shines through the radiant color of a diamond!

What would you say to a young musician who is trying to find their path and wonders what value there is today in studying the organ and dedicating themselves to sacred music?

That they should have a plan B in their pocket. Studying organ and sacred music does not automatically mean finding a job that allows you to make a living. These positions are rather rare and often not very secure. Those who come with a work prospect offered by a bishop or a religious superior will not have to worry much. But those who come following a purely personal interest, without a mandate, must be prudent and look far ahead. The intrinsic value of studying sacred music is that it connects us to a living, diverse, and rich liturgical-musical tradition that has also influenced secular art and thought. Much of culture has evolved around worship.



In a rapidly changing world, what place does — and should — the PIMS have in preserving and renewing the tradition of sacred music?

Yes, the world is changing rapidly. But perhaps it would not be accurate to speak of “one world.” In reality, many different worlds exist simultaneously; society is not one single whole but is made up of segments and sectors. We must not close our eyes to this undeniable fact — nor complain by idealizing the past. But neither must we become complacent or lazy, or indecisive about the values we want to uphold and work for. Therefore, the PIMS has an important place among the institutions of the Holy See and in the wider community of musical institutions in general. The PIMS must renew itself, but always starting from its history and from the intentions — *mutatis mutandis* — of its founder, Saint Pius X. The Swiss psychologist Carl Gustav Jung (1875–1961) pointed out the dangers of cutting oneself off from one’s roots: individuals and communities alike would become neurotic, lose their sense of purpose, and fall victim to unbridled, disoriented, and exhausting activism.



After so many years of teaching and service, the time is approaching for you to retire from the PIMS. How are you experiencing this final year within the Institute’s community? Are there elements of your teaching that you still wish to pass on, or aspects of the Institute’s life that you feel you will miss?

I will live this last year just as I have all the previous ones: teaching with attention to the needs of each individual student. I foresee that it will be precisely this immediate, personalized transmission that I will miss the most. Since I have usually spent all my time in Rome at PIMS, I don’t think I will miss Rome as a city very much. My truly unforgettable and splendid years in Rome were those of my theological, organ, and composition studies — the city’s culture, my international friends of that time, and my excellent teachers have all left their indelible mark.

Do you already have projects, wishes, or activities in mind that you would like to pursue once your work at the PIMS is concluded?

Yes, certainly. But my future will depend on a process of discernment in dialogue with my Abbot. It is still too early to think about it too much, so I cannot say anything very concrete or with certainty. I would definitely like to write a book — this time not about music, but about spirituality. In addition, I have quite an extensive amount of compositional work awaiting me, which I am particularly happy about — writing music is my great passion!



Let's sing with the Pope

"Let's Sing with the Pope"

is an initiative of the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music aimed at helping the People of God actively participate in liturgical celebrations, including papal Masses.

Guided by Father Robert Mehlhart OP, the institute's rector, these tutorials feature simple melodies suitable for the congregation, encouraging more conscious and active participation in the liturgy.

Through a series of short video tutorials shared on social media, the project makes the heritage of Gregorian chant — the musical and spiritual language of the Church — accessible to all.

The initiative has already surpassed 4 million views on Instagram.



- dancingbeastie As a Catholic convert I am so grateful to be able to learn this with you! Thank you from Scotland 🇬🇧
8 w 35 likes Reply
- margauxsalcedo This is so cool!! Just learned the Regina Coeli now with you! Thank you Fr Robert! Instructions and pace and repetitions were perfect and it was sooo cool to sing with the Pope in the end. Thank you for this!!! (Hello from the Philippines.)
8 w 79 likes Reply
- leliam_rana Thank you 🌈 this is so energetic! It is great to learn and be more active during Holy Mass 😊
9 w 13 likes Reply
- nicolo_toppi Bellissimo progetto, complimenti! ❤️
13 w 1 like Reply See Translation
- coro.cdc È un'iniziativa davvero ispirata e di sicura utilità per i Cantori, ma soprattutto per il popolo di Dio. Grazie infinite 🙏
13 w 3 likes Reply See Translation
- gilda2595 Meravigliosa iniziativa 🙏🙏🙏 grazieeeeeee ❤️❤️
13 w 2 likes Reply See Translation

Collaboration with the Basilica of Saint Peter

We are grateful for the collaboration between the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music and St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, which began in October 2024. Following the success of the first year, the program will continue into the new academic year: our students will again contribute musically to the parish Mass celebrated every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

This initiative has not only enriched the worship experience of the faithful, but has also offered our students valuable practical experience in a setting of great historical and spiritual significance.

We look forward with confidence to the continuation of this collaboration, certain of its value for the artistic, liturgical, and spiritual growth of our academic community.





Statements of our students



“ Studying here at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music is, for me, a privilege and a grace. As a young seminarian, I had always dreamed of being here. The high level of training demands constant adaptation and daily courage. And this is the challenge for each of us. Beyond the excellent academic formation we receive, our Institute also helps us grow in virtue — among other things, in patience and resilience. Thank you to the PIMS for all the knowledge we receive today, preparing us to be capable and ready to serve the Church tomorrow.

— Fr. Nicaise Djaha, Côte d’Ivoire (Gregorian Chant)

“ Music has the power to reach the hearts of people and to lift the soul to God. The PIMS gives us, students from all over the world, the tools to continue this wonderful service in the Church: enabling humanity, through sacred music, to praise God and speak to Him. Being a student at PIMS is also a deeply enriching human experience: there are many opportunities for dialogue and exchange with musicians from all over the world. This is a gift that highlights the fact that music transcends any historical period and any country, because it is a universal language.

— Daniela Battioni, Italy (Vocal studies)





66 Being a student at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music means, for me, having the opportunity to study this art in an environment that directs my reflection toward Christ and His Church. As a composer, I am glad to learn how to arrange sounds in such a way that they help people “perceive the Word within the words” (Benedict XVI). Cultural challenges are not lacking: how can we create music that touches the hearts of people today without losing the connection with tradition? I believe that the quality of the teachers, the repertoire, the library, the multicultural environment, the city, and the closeness to the Pope are all elements that support this journey and help us grow in order to offer a true service to the Church. Sacred music is not an end in itself but is at the service of the Church’s life. Very few places in the world allow one to study with such a clear and specific purpose.


— Juan Barceló, Chile (Composition)





2025-2026 at a Glance


 Monday, October 27, 2025
5.00 pm, Abbey Church
Solemn Vespers


 Tuesday, October 28, 2025
12.00 pm, Abbey Church
Holy Mass
for the beginning of the Academic Year
Organ: Giacomo Balduzzi
Schola Gregoriana, PIMS Polyphonic Choir


 Friday, November 21, 2025
7.00 pm, Academic Hall
Musical tribute in occasion
of the 275th anniversary of J.S. Bach's passing
Organ: Leisbert Moreno,
Alessandra Ciccaglioni, dom Ezechiele Pereira
Chant: Derlis Gonzalez

 Monday, November 24, 2025
5.00 pm, Abbey Church
Solemn Vespers


 Wednesday, November 26, 2025
10.30 am, Abbey Church
Holy Mass in honor of St. Cecilia
and graduation ceremony
Organ: Sr. Cecilia Hong, don Giacomo Lee
Schola Gregoriana, PIMS Polyphonic Choir

 Friday, November 28, 2025
7.00 pm, Abbey Church
Musical tribute in occasion
of the 275th anniversary of J.S. Bach's passing
Organ: Davide Barros, Giacomo Balduzzi
Chant: David Maria Gentile


 Friday, December 5, 2025
7.00 pm, Academic Hall
Musical tribute in occasion
of the 275th anniversary of J.S. Bach's passing
Organ: Lucia Ingnone, Roberto Di Buccio, Efisio Aresu
Chant: Daniela Battioni


 Friday, December 12, 2025
7.00 pm, Academic Hall
Musical tribute in occasion
of the 275th anniversary of J.S. Bach's passing
Cantata: Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 61
Cappella del PIMS, Chamber Orchestra
Organ: Roberto Marini
Conductor: Robert Mehlhart

 Monday, December 15, 2025
5.00 pm, Abbey Church
Solemn Vespers

 Tuesday, December 16, 2025
12.00 pm, Abbey Church
Holy Mass
in preparation for Holy Christmas
Organ: Roberto Di Buccio
Schola Gregoriana, PIMS Polyphonic Choir

 Wednesday, December 17, 2025
5.30 pm, Pontifical Lateran University
Concert
in preparation for Christmas


 Friday, December 19, 2025
7.00 pm, Academic Hall
Musical tribute in occasion
of the 275th anniversary of J.S. Bach's passing
Organ: Marco Rivas, Giacomo Balduzzi,
Lucia Chintemi, Davide Barros
Chant: Daniela Battioni, Schola Gregoriana

 Friday, January 23, 2026
6.00 pm, Academic Hall
Francesco800 - Music and Mission
Sing Francesco: Reflections on Music and Mission
Speaker: Frate Alessandro
and First public performance of the winning piece
from the Francesco800 composition contest
Schola Gregoriana, PIMS Polyphonic Choir


 Monday, January 26, 2026
5.00 pm, Abbey Church
Solemn Vespers

 Tuesday, January 27, 2026
12.00 pm, Abbey Church
Holy Mass
with the Organ Improvisation Class
Students of Organ Improvisation,
Schola Gregoriana, PIMS Polyphonic Choir


 Monday, February 16, 2026
5.00 pm, Abbey Church
Solemn Vespers


 Wednesday, February 18, 2026
12.00 pm, Abbey Church
Holy Mass for Ash Wednesday
Schola Gregoriana, PIMS Polyphonic Choir

 Monday, March 2, 2026
5.00 pm, Abbey Church
Solemn Vespers


 Tuesday, March 3, 2026
12.00 pm, Abbey Church
Holy Mass by the Early Music
and Vocal Studies Classes
Organ: Luca Chintemi
Students of Early Music and Vocal Studies
Schola Gregoriana


 from Friday, 6 to Sunday, 8, March, 2026
Aula Refice and Academic Hall
Festival Concertando - Vision and Invention
March 6, 10.00 am, Meeting with the composer in residence
Sir James MacMillan (Aula Refice)
8.00 pm, Concert (Academic Hall)
March 7, 8.00 pm, Concert (Academic Hall)
March 8, 7.00 pm, Concert (Academic Hall)

 Saturday, March 21, 2026
8.00 pm, Chiesa di Santa Maria dell'Anima
Concert
by the Schola Gregoriana of PIMS
Schola Gregoriana of PIMS
Conductor: Inga Behrendt


 Tuesday, April 21, 2026
6.00 pm, Aula Refice
From Rome to the World
Meeting with Josep Solé Coll, Principal Organist
of the Papal Basilica of St. Peter

 Monday, April 27, 2026
5.00 pm, Abbey Church
Solemn Vespers


 Tuesday, April 28, 2026
12.00 pm, Abbey Church
Holy Mass with the Choir Direction
and Composition Classes
Organ: Efisio Aresu
Schola Gregoriana, PIMS Polyphonic Choir


 Thursday, April 30, 2026
8.00 pm, Academic Hall
Piano Concert with Antonio Russo


 Wednesday, May 6, 2026
8.00 pm, Basilica of Sant'Apollinare
The PIMS Polyphonic Choir Concert
G.B. Pergolesi's "Stabat Mater" in the Viennese version
for soloists, choir, orchestra, and basso continuo
Soloists, PIMS Polyphonic Choir, PIMS Orchestra
Conductor: Walter Marzilli

 Friday, May 8, 2026
Abbey Church and Academic Hall
Organ Festival
Masterclass and Concert by Manuel Tomadin
10.00 am, Masterclass (Abbey Church)
6.30 pm, Concert (Academic Hall)

 Friday, May 15, 2026
Abbey Church and Academic Hall
Organ Festival
Masterclass and Concert by Franz Josef Stoiber
10.00 am, Masterclass (Abbey Church)
6.30 pm, Concert (Academic Hall)


 Tuesday, May 19, 2026
8.00 pm, Abbey Church
Exam Concert
(Choir Direction, Bachelor)

 Friday, May 22, 2026
Abbey Church and Academic Hall
Organ Festival
Masterclass and Concert by Johannes Kleinjung
10.00 am, Masterclass (Abbey Church)
6.30 pm, Concert (Academic Hall)

 Monday, May 25, 2026
12.00 pm, Abbey Church
Exam Concert
by Students of the Vocal Studies

 Monday, May 25, 2026
5.00 pm, Abbey Church
Solemn Vespers

 Tuesday, May 26, 2026
8.00 pm, Basilica of Sant'Apollinare
Exam Concert
(Choir Direction, Licentiate)
PIMS Polyphonic Choir, Orchestra Sinfonica Romana

 Wednesday, May 28, 2026
12.00 pm, Abbey Church
Holy Mass for the end of the Academic Year
with the Choir Direction Class
Organ: Marco Rivas
Schola Gregoriana, PIMS Polyphonic Choir
Orchestra Sinfonica Romana

 liturgy  concert  conference



FAQs

In which language is the teaching conducted?

Classes are taught in Italian. Individual lessons may be conducted in any language, depending on the instructor. Since the common language of the institute is Italian, it is recommended to have at least a B1 level of proficiency before enrolling in an academic course.

Do I have to be a priest or a religious to enroll at PIMS?

The Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music welcomes laypeople, religious, and priests. You do not have to be a priest or a religious.

Do I have to be Catholic to enroll at PIMS?

The Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music welcomes students from different religious backgrounds, as long as they respect the Institute's mission. You do not have to be Catholic to enroll at PIMS. All students are required to participate in the liturgies of the institute.

Can anyone study at PIMS?

To enroll as an ordinary student, passing the entrance exam is required. Everyone is welcome to enroll as an extraordinary student. Extraordinary students do not have access to private lessons, such as piano, singing, or organ.

Does PIMS offer scholarships?

We do not offer scholarships, but the fees are significantly lower compared to other international music universities.

What degrees does PIMS offer?

We offer seven undergraduate (baccalaureate) programs, seven graduate (licentiate) programs, and doctoral degrees in Musicology and Applied Musicology.

CONTACT

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Available for in-person consultations:
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“ When liturgical music is inspired by faith and shaped with skill, it engages voice, mind, and heart. It becomes a path to prayer.

– Pope Leo XIV