

**OMNES COMPLEANT:  
A CONDUCTOR'S RESOURCE GUIDE TO THE OFFICE OF COMPLINE**

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**ABSTRACT**

One of the celebrations within the daily cycle of the Divine Office in the Roman Catholic Church, Compline is the office immediately following Vespers, and intended for observance at the completion of the day, or prior to sleep. Within Compline, as within each of the offices of the liturgical hours, there exists a body of corresponding monophonic plainchant in the form of psalms, hymns, and antiphons, and smaller chants such as versicles, responsories, canticles, and others. A wealth of polyphonic settings also exists of many of these chants and texts, spanning all periods of music history. Most of the sacred Latin choral repertoire originates in some segment of Roman Catholic liturgy, and since the hours of the Divine Office each have an assigned corpus of texts and plainchant, a sizeable quantity of that repertoire has its roots in the traditional celebrations of the Divine Office. Moreover, the Marian Antiphons, which are among the more popularly performed sacred Latin choral texts, are specifically connected to the office of Compline. While a substantial amount of literature is available addressing the history of the Liturgical Hours and of Compline in particular, along with resources that provide guidance for religious celebration and even some limited collections of polyphonic music, this document is designed to offer resources for the conductor or choral musician interested in constructing services or concert programs based on the music of Compline.

Serving primarily as a resource for the integration of Compline plainchant with performances of related polyphonic works, the present study provides an historical overview of the evolution of the office of Compline; original editions of Compline plainchant; original translations of all Latin texts; a catalog of important polyphonic settings of the Compline psalms, hymn, antiphons, and selected other chants and texts; and an example concert program for a Compline-centered performance, complete with original performance editions of twelve polyphonic works. This resource guide could ultimately serve as a volume within a future larger series consisting of similar resources for all of the Liturgical Hours, such as Matins, Lauds, Vespers, and others.