

The Office of Latino/Hispanic Ministry of the Episcopal Church

Cancionero: General Standards and Principles^{The}

Episcopal Church Center

815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017

Cancionero: General Standards and Principles

We must remember that the cancionero will never be perfect. There will always be a tendency to consult one more resource or one more person, to try to include one more song, to wait one more day, and so forth. If the committee gives in to these internal and external pressures, the cancionero will miss deadlines for funding, decision-making, publication, and distribution. Those delays may seem to be for good purposes, but they can be fatal to the successful accomplishment of the task of creating and publishing the cancionero. The Cancionero Committee must agree to these guidelines and truly be guided by them, even enduring the fears and discomforts that come with deadline work.

Vision

Our vision is to produce a songbook (in Spanish, *cancionero*) of about 500 to 700 pieces of music, one that is affordable, easy to use, and culturally relevant for Spanish-speaking Episcopal congregations.

Content

1. The content of the song texts and the variety of songs should represent the style and content of traditional Anglican theology as found in the Latino/Hispanic context.
2. The content should include themes of our time, such as immigration, racism, liberation, and the like.
3. The contents should be proportionally balanced among the seasons of the Church year; longer seasons should have more songs.
4. The songs should be classified and placed in appropriate categories within the cancionero.
5. The contents should not be limited to music that is widely known but should also include some new material that will require learning. Our desire is for a cancionero we can grow with.

6. All of the material should be easy to sing for a typical Spanish-speaking congregation.
7. The cancionero should include some bilingual songs.
8. The cancionero should have a diversity of contents, with these approximate percentages:
 - 20% traditional North Atlantic hymnody or “chestnuts”
 - 45% traditional and popular Latino/Hispanic pieces
 - 35% recent and new Latino/Hispanic pieces
9. The contents should be in agreement with the lectionary (mostly with scriptural images and references related to the Scripture lessons) or have a strong biblical dimension.
 10. The text should be mission-minded.
 11. Just as the liturgical seasons are varied in their moods and emotions, so the songs included in the cancionero should be suited to the differing moods of those ecclesiastical seasons.
 12. There should be songs for special occasions and especially for the unique Latino/Hispanic observances:
 - Baptisms and other sacraments
 - Saints’ days
 - House blessings
 - First communions
 - Cultural observances (quinceañeras, cumpleaños, presentation of a child, Día de los Muertos)
 - Weddings and anniversaries
 - Funerals and wakes
 - Vía crucis
 - Posadas and other traditional Christmas and advent celebrations
 - The presentation of Jesus in the Temple
 - Songs of joy when one hears the voice of God
 - Song of Mary and songs that reflect other women in Scripture
 - Songs that express liberation of indigenous and oppressed people

Texts

1. Texts that are translations from other languages should be of very good quality done by culturally-qualified translators, editors, and poets.
 2. The song lyrics should reflect the richness and poetry of the Spanish language.
 3. Some song texts that are in the public domain will need new, or slightly altered, translations. Such a decision and altered translation must consider the possibility that new translations might create resistance or opposition when replacing well-known song lyrics.
 4. We recognize that Spanish has changed since many of the now-available songs were translated.
 5. Whenever possible, the text should use inclusive language and images.
 6. The texts should have words that fit the music; this is a particular problem with translated texts:
 - The mood of the words and the mood of the tune should be synchronous.
 - All texts should scan well. That is, the syllables should easily correspond with the melody.
 - The beat of the music should place appropriate stresses on the proper syllables and words of the Spanish text.
7. There should be a balance between texts that teach and those that principally express emotions. The texts should help us grow spiritually, intellectually, and ethically and should also express emotions.

Language

The language of the songs should reflect correct contemporary usage common throughout Latin America and the Spanish-speaking United States. We want to avoid the use of archaic language and words that are rarely used in ordinary speech.

Avoid the second person plural (*vosotros*) and all related forms of verbs.

Use correct biblical words and phrases (for example, not “Jehovah” but rather “Yahweh”, which is now more universal).

However, it may be best to leave the lyrics of some well-known traditional songs unchanged.

Copyrights, Permissions, and Royalties

The cost of the final cancionero is an important consideration, because Spanish-speaking congregations generally have limited financial resources. Therefore the committee will attempt to include many songs that are in the public domain in order to reduce the cost of royalties.

In all cases, we will search carefully to determine whether a piece has been copyrighted. (That a piece is labeled “traditional” or “anonymous” in one collection does not mean that it has not been copyrighted.)

We feel strongly that we should honor and properly compensate the authors, arrangers, and composers of the songs included in the cancionero.

Indexes

The cancionero should include the following indexes:

Songs appropriate for special occasions. Although the songs will be categorized and placed in sections appropriate for various occasions, we will also have an index that will direct attention to “general” songs which are also appropriate for various special occasions.

Scriptural. An index that indicates the possible uses and scriptural relationships according to the Revised Common Lectionary.

Author

Bilingual

Alphabetical—one for titles and one for first lines

Liturgical/thematic

Other books in which the songs are found

Other indexes will be posted on the Web

Culture

The songs chosen for the cancionero should reflect the cultures and musical styles of the many countries of origin represented in our Spanish-speaking congregations (e.g., Caribbean, Mexican, Andean, Central American).

The Intended Publications

1. The principal publication will be the words-only edition, possibly with chord notations. The cancionero will be a low-cost paperback (about 8½ × 5½ inches)

intended for use by parishioners. For easy reading, the font size should be at least 12 point.

2. A second publication will be an edition with music (about $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ inches) for use by musicians. To the extent possible, this edition will include chord notations for stringed instruments. It will also include information regarding rhythm, tempo, etc.

Suggested Categories

Estaciones

Adviento	15
Navidad	20
Nombre de Jesús	2
Epifanía	20
Cuaresma	20
Semana Santa	20
Pascua	25
Ascensión	4
Pentecostés	6

Días Especiales

Día de la Trinidad	6
Transfiguración	2
Bendición de una casa	3
Funerales/velorios (difuntos)	6
Comunión solemne	5
Quinceañera	5
Día de la madre/del padre	4
Consagración de una iglesia	3
Día de Acción de Gracias	2

Partes del Servicio

Día de la herencia Hispánica	4
Entrada	15
Gradual (Palabra de Dios)	14
Ofertorio	15
Sacramentos	
Bautismo	6
Bodas (matrimonio)	5
Confirmación	6
Eucaristía (comunión)	25

Órdenes sagradas	6
Unción de enfermos	3
Santos y ángeles	12
María	12
Cánticos bíblicos	20
Oración matutina y vespertina	10
Completas	4
Evangelismo y misiones	25
Principio y fin del año	3
Espíritu Santo	20
Canciones generales	162
Salida	15
Litúrgico (quizás 5 misas completas e otra música litúrgica) Kyrie, Gloria, Trisagio, Credo, Paz, Santo, Aclamación, Amen, Padre Nuestro, Fracción	<u>□□50</u>
TOTAL	600

Communication and Promotion

It is imperative that the process of compiling the selections for the cancionero be transparent and broadcasted in order to generate and hold interest and to demonstrate progress. Perhaps a program of weekly/monthly bilingual e-mail messages to all the Latino/Hispanic ministries could serve to do that. The e-mails should be brief, perhaps 100 to 150 words each, with enough specifics to make it real, but not specific enough to make it a promise (or to put somebody on the spot)