

# Augsburg Fortress Submission Guidelines

Augsburg Fortress is committed to the development and publication of resources to support the ministry of congregations in the areas of worship and music, adult education and leadership, representing these attributes: high musical and liturgical quality in a variety of styles and genres, engaging and innovative teaching and learning models, sound theological substance, pastoral sensitivity, attention to Lutheran heritages and voices for the future, and ecumenical usefulness.

The three-year lectionary pattern in widespread use across the Christian churches, and especially its use in the Revised Common Lectionary, forms the basis for much of the material published by Augsburg Fortress. Digital editions and planning tools are a significant addition to our offerings in recent years.

## Resources for Congregations

Most of the non-music materials published by Augsburg Fortress are commissioned for ongoing congregation resources such as the Sundays and Seasons worship planning and preaching resources as well as our subscription devotionals. There is a continuing need to identify gifted writers for these resources. If you would like to be considered as a writer for such publications, please send an e-mail indicating your area of interest to [afsubmissions@1517.media](mailto:afsubmissions@1517.media). You will be contacted as to what sample writing we would like to see. Prospective writers for our subscription devotionals may view [Christ in Our Home Writer Guidelines](#) and [The Word in Season Writer Guidelines](#) for more information about submissions for those resources.

People who have other publishing projects that might be of interest to Augsburg Fortress may submit for consideration a letter of inquiry, proposal with outline, or manuscript. We accept submissions only as e-mail attachments in PDF or Microsoft Word to [afsubmissions@1517.media](mailto:afsubmissions@1517.media). Please note that due to the volume of proposals received, editorial staff are able to acknowledge only those proposals that fit our publishing needs and catalog. Such proposals will receive an acknowledgment within 60 days of receipt. Materials submitted in hard copy will not be returned.

## Music Resources

The primary focus of our overall music imprint, [Augsburg Music](#), is “Leading the Church’s Song.” This emphasis acknowledges that the principal musical participant in worship is the worshipping assembly. Our resources are designed to support the song of God’s people, whether through hymns, psalms, and songs in which the gathered assembly joins; through vocal and instrumental enhancements that enliven that participation; or through more elaborated vocal and instrumental compositions that are offered in worship on behalf of the gathered assembly.

**Congregational song** includes new texts, translations, tunes, harmonizations, and other related materials. Hymnody that supports the three-year lectionary, psalm settings and paraphrases, and liturgical music for cantor/choir and congregation are of particular interest. Collections of texts with music are more likely to receive publication consideration than individual hymns; however, a new hymn text and/or tune set within a choral anthem may have publication potential.

**Choral music** includes newly composed music for congregation choirs (SATB and especially SAB, 2-part mixed, and unison), critically-informed editions of historical music related to the lectionary, choral settings incorporating the congregation in song, new canticles and liturgical music, music for children and youth, choral music especially for Advent, Lent, and Easter seasons, and multicultural choral music. Many of these works are suitable also for use in school and community choirs. Our choral imprints include the following:

- [Augsburg Choral Library](#): This series includes hundreds of compositions in varying genres, intended primarily for use in worship by choirs with a broad range of skills and experience.
- [St. Olaf Choral Series](#): Editors from the St. Olaf College music faculty select compositions that embody the highest quality of choral music for both congregation and school music programs.
- [Augsburg Choral Hymn Series](#): This series supports hymnody contained in the current principal denominational worship book *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) as well as the ongoing emergence of new hymn resources for the whole church.
- [GladSong](#): Anthems for youth and adults with attention to genres of contemporary popular music are published in this series. Piano and other instrumental accompaniments are featured.
- [ChildrenSing](#): This series includes bound collections of anthems and songs with reproducible parts for the singers. It is designed with children in mind, yet many selections are also suitable for youth and adult choirs, especially those with limited resources.
- [Choirbooks](#): Larger choral music collections for choirs of varying abilities are compiled to supply excellent value and usefulness throughout the seasons of the liturgical year.

**Instrumental music** involves the development of organ and piano compositions for liturgical churches; some titles include instrument part(s). Settings based upon hymn tunes continue to be the primary area of interest, but freely composed music is also evaluated for publication.

Proposals for publication should show a concern for **language that embraces all**. While classic texts are often honored and retained for their poetic value, new texts for hymnody, psalmody, and liturgical rites that include generally accepted inclusive language for humanity as well as various and diverse language for God will receive favorable consideration. We may require that expansive language options be included in anthem texts. Resources reflecting language and ethnic/cultural diversity represent another aspect of our commitment to broader inclusion in the ongoing development of music for worship.

**What don't we publish?** Augsburg Music does not publish handbell music; orchestral music; musicals, oratorios, or operas for adults, youth, or children; instructional music texts; school music curricula; choral or vocal music using texts that are predominantly secular in character; or music that relies on recorded instrumental or vocal tracks in performance.

Augsburg Music resources are normally published in both **print and digital formats**. [Prelude Music Planner](#) is our subscription music service for the delivery of digital music publications.

## **Augsburg Music: Submission Process**

### **What to Submit**

Music manuscripts must be submitted online (attached to an email as a PDF, not a music engraving file). No recordings, please. Manuscripts must state authors and translators of texts, original source of pre-existent music, composers, and/or arrangers. Precise and complete information is needed if the music is chosen for publication, and the publication process is expedited if addresses for owners of obscure sources are included.

Submitted music is referred to our music reviewers for study and evaluation. Criteria for review include factors such as these: musical evaluation for quality, style, difficulty, and genre; textual evaluation for theology, liturgical usefulness, language sensitivity, and suitability for use in Lutheran as well as other Christian contexts; anticipated customer interest and market need; relationships with composers and authors; and catalog balance.

### **How and When to Submit**

The best way to contact Augsburg Fortress about a music project is by submitting a manuscript or a sample of the work via this email address: [musicsub@augzburgfortress.org](mailto:musicsub@augzburgfortress.org)

Submitted manuscripts will receive an auto-reply, which is the notification that your manuscript has been received. Please note that due to the volume of manuscripts we receive, we are able to extend a formal acknowledgment that your manuscript has been chosen for review only if your manuscript is a potential fit for our catalog. Such proposals will receive a response within 60 days of receipt. Acceptance decisions are typically made within 30 days of that acknowledgment notice. Materials submitted in hard copy will not be returned.

Contracts are issued generally about six months prior to publication. Due to the limited number of titles we are able to publish annually, an accepted title's release may take two years or more.

Although most of the music we publish is released in the spring for the following program year, manuscripts are received at any time. However, in order to be considered for release in the next year's line if space is available, manuscripts should be received by May 1 of the previous year.

### **Copyright Considerations**

Augsburg Fortress pays industry-competitive royalty rates on published resources. If ownership of copyrighted material is shared between authors, composers, and/or arrangers, the royalty is generally pro-rated based upon number of owners. Materials included in collections earn either one-time payments or royalties based on a pro-rata division of the total royalty.

Note that for a choral work, when both text and tune are administered by copyright holder(s) other than Augsburg Fortress, the entire royalty is typically required to be paid to such copyright holder(s), and the copyright may be assigned to such copyright holder(s) as a derivative work. For an instrumental work based on a copyrighted tune, the tune copyright holder often requires ownership of the arrangement's copyright as well as payment of the full royalty.

Composers must secure permission in advance from any other copyright holders if the submitted composition involves a setting or arrangement of copyrighted music. Composers who combine their original music with a copyrighted text should also advise the text copyright owner and secure permission if necessary.

It's not necessary to register a copyright on material prior to submission; Augsburg Fortress will manage that task. USA copyright laws contain an implied copyright provision that protects your work.