



2006

Rev. Michael Driscoll, associate professor of theology, and Craig Cramer, professor of music, begin the Master of Sacred Music (MSM) degree, and situate it in the Department of Theology. Class of three is admitted. Our placement record is 100%.



2009

Peter Jeffery of Princeton University joins Notre Dame as Michael P. Grace Professor of Medieval Studies. He teaches music and liturgy and co-directs the MSM. Janet Rudasics, present Program Manager, starts running the program's new office. We have 15-20 student applicants per year, from which we choose about 10.

2010

Keough-Hesburgh Professor of Music History and Liturgy Margot Fassler arrives at Notre Dame to co-direct the MSM. Previously, she directed the Yale Institute of Sacred Music for over 10 years. Applications stand at around 20.



2011

College of Arts and Letters dean designates three new faculty lines to the MSM. A decision is made to divide the choral/vocal track and hire a distinguished choral conductor. Stephen Lancaster heads the new vocal studio.

2012

Professor Carmen-Helena Tellez joins the faculty. She came to Notre Dame from Indiana University, where she had directed the Jacobs School of Music's graduate program in choral conducting.



2013

Awarded \$400,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation for the Sacred Music Drama Project. Awarded \$1.9 million Lilly grant to help launch the Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree and to start the Notre Dame Children's Choir (NDCC), a lab choir to train our students in choral methods. Children's methods to be a major feature of the DMA program.



2014

Mark Doerries is hired as artistic director of the NDCC. Paul Walker is hired as field supervisor of the Lilly grant, working with the churches on the practical aspects of church music and community involvement. Doerries and Fassler host a conference: "The Child Chorister and the Future of the Church."

2015

Sacred Music at Notre Dame is up and running as an independent program in the College of Arts and Letters, with a complement of courses in sacred music and liturgy and three graduate studios, in organ, in choral conducting, and in voice. The Notre Dame Children's Choir, to our amazement, has 40 children, double the anticipated enrollment. NDCC launches its inaugural national tour. Applications to our program skyrocket to over 50. Our internships are coveted by local churches. We are to be part of the Campus Crossroads project, with a new music building and much-needed space.

2016

Sacred Music at Notre Dame hosts important national meetings, including the American Bach Society, and visitors are amazed at the quality of our student organists, singers, and conductors. One noted scholar said: "Notre Dame is giving Yale a run for its money!" We have around 100 applications to our program. Famed soprano Kiera Duffy is hired to join Stephen Lancaster in the voice studio. John Liberatore is teaching composition for us now, one course per year.

2017

We have more than 100 applications to our program. The NDCC has over 200 children, and two satellite choirs. Sacred Music Academy established to house NDCC and new children's organ program. Our first recording is Number 1 on the Billboard Classical charts for 2 weeks. The new Murdy Family Organ is installed in the Basilica, which, with two additional Fritts organs, give Notre Dame one of the best collections in the country. Preparations underway to move into O'Neill Hall when construction concludes.

2018

Sacred Music received a gift from Jim and Molly Perry to name the Calvin M. Bower Doctor of Musical Arts Program. The NDCC now has over 300 children and two satellite choirs. We have moved into our new home, O'Neill Hall. It is a 100,000-square-foot, seven-story building on the south side of Notre Dame Stadium made possible by a gift to the University from Helen Schwab and her husband Charles, in honor of her brother, Notre Dame alumnus and trustee Joseph I. O'Neill III.