The Cantor

In 1967, the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council outlined general norms and ideas of the music ministry in *Musicam Sacram* (MS). Importantly, it notes:

> *Liturgical worship is given a more noble form when it is celebrated in song, with the ministers of each degree fulfilling their ministry and the people participating in it [MS 4].*
>
> *Choirs support the people and give added beauty to liturgical celebrations. When choral pieces are sung, the faithful "unite themselves interiorly to what the ministers or choir sing, so that by listening to them they may raise their minds to God" [MS 15].*



The cantor facilitates this, thus, being a cantor involves much more than standing up and singing alone. The role involves making the assembly's prayer possible through song. In essence, to guide the congregation in worship through song.

Common parts of the Mass that are sung:

- The Gloria
- Responsorial Psalm between the Old and New Testament readings
- The Gospel Acclamation
- Other proclamations, such as various Litanies
- The cantor also has the responsibility for any songs or hymns that require solo passages, leading the assembly in a recurring refrain to be sung and inviting the assembly to join voices in hymns used throughout the Mass.

The cantor always remains prayerful and dedicated to an appropriate support for the liturgy.

Sources:

https://spiritualcantor.com/what-is-catholic-cantor/ http://design.saintpatrickcc.com/?DivisionID=496&DepartmentID=729