

Choir Director/Organist

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Cheshire, Connecticut

Job Title: Music Director and Organist

Summary: St. Peter's is an active, mid-sized suburban parish located in the heart of Cheshire, CT. Our home is a beautiful, historic building on sacred ground where people of faith have gathered for more than 250 years. We are a strong, increasingly diverse community of intergenerational worship and celebration. Grounded in a strong tradition and history, we are a welcoming and affirming community celebrating God's boundless love.

Our church is blessed with two interconnected pipe organs: a 2 manual Casavant console in the choir loft, and a two-manual custom console controlling the transept organ. We also have a Steinway "M" grand piano, and a well-equipped and dedicated choir room with a substantial choral library. Our small staff works together to ensure support for our parishioners, our extended community and each other.

Job Description: Chief responsibilities of this position include: lead services on the organ by providing preludes, postludes, and other service-music as appropriate and by supporting our singing congregation through hymnody; lead and oversee the Parish Choir; and re-establish a Children's Choir that provides a musical and spiritual education to its participants, with a particular emphasis on the joy of singing and learning to read music.

As a church leader in this position, the Music Director must have a presence within the congregation and provide a vision of, and oversee the implementation of, an enhanced music program for both adults and children.

As St. Peter's is currently in a period of clergy transition, upon the hiring of a Priest-in-Charge and in consultation with the Music Director, this job description may be reviewed and modified.

Duties and Responsibilities

Oversight and Planning:

- Develop yearly calendar for music programming.
- Plan appropriate Sunday service music.
- Send music choices in a timely manner to the Parish Administrator for the weekly orders of service as well as special services.
- Oversee the maintenance and care of musical instruments, including tuning of organ and pianos.
- Maintain responsibility to ensure a copyright license is in place and being used properly for music planned for church services (we have used RiteSong, One License, and CCLI in the past).
- Attend regularly scheduled staff meetings, virtual or in-person, and serve on committees as appropriate.
- Write and submit a monthly report for Vestry.
- Participate in Safe Church Training every three years.

Schedule:*Choral Season: September to June*

- Rehearse the Parish Choir one evening per week, with a warm-up prior to the service on Sunday morning.
- Lead the music for the Sunday Rite II weekly service, directing the Parish Choir.
- Recruit for the Children's Choir.
- Rehearse the Children's Choir regularly, the schedule of which is to be developed with input from parents on children's availability.
- Prepare the Children's Choir for periodic offerings at the Rite II service.
- Provide music for special services (to include Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter).

Summer Worship: July and August

- Accompany the Sunday Rite II service-- traditionally with congregational singing only.

Miscellaneous Musical Opportunities

- Play at extra services, or for funerals and weddings when possible, and suggest supply organists if unable to attend. Compensation for these services is provided by those requesting the services.

Position Type and Expected Hours of Work: Approximately 15-18 estimated per week, typically less in the summer and notably more during the seasons of Advent, Christmas (traditionally including three Christmas Eve services), Lent (including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday) and Easter (including Easter Vigil and Easter Day).

Supervisory Responsibilities: Supervise volunteers, including parents, and work with Parish Administrator to ensure all parties are Safe Church certified.

Work Environment: Worship services primarily occur in the sanctuary and parish hall, with some services outside in the summer months.

Qualifications:

Ability to play church organ and piano.

Experience in conducting choral performances that include traditional and contemporary pieces.

Ability to perform solo for weddings and funerals.

Salary:

\$30,000 (yearly salary)

Education:

Bachelor's Degree in music education, choral direction, music performance, or a related field is required. Master's Degree is preferred. Experience working in a church environment is desirable.

To Apply:

Interested candidates should send a current CV and links to recordings of one example of organ performance and one example of choral conducting to Rwarden@stpeterscheshire.org Application deadline is February 29, 2024. We will review applications in a timely manner to arrange interviews and auditions.