



ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Director of Music, Organist and Choirmaster

Job Description and Requirements

The Director of Music is an integral part of the worship service and a key member of staff. Reporting to the Rector, the Director should be comfortable and capable in a variety of musical styles and genres with the ability to lead, play, and direct from the bench. While this is part-time (fewer than 20 hours per week), we would be open to a dialogue to potentially expand the role over the next two to three years. The annual salary for this position is \$25,000.

Requirements:

- Worship planning with Rector and Music Committee for all Sundays and major church holidays (especially Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday)
- Play and lead all Sunday worship services and special services (as noted above) or arrange for replacement within established vacation guidelines
- Participate in monthly staff meetings
- Organ and piano practice (to maintain technique)
- Weekly rehearsals (September through May) of senior and junior choirs to prepare for services or special programs (90 minutes/each)
- The Director shall have right of first refusal to play for all weddings and funerals
- Budget management for music purchases and paid section leaders
- Excellent sight-reading ability (required)
- Ability to play/conduct from bench
- Develop and lead the senior and junior choirs
 - Plan appropriate music for skill level of choirs
 - Recruit and engage new members (emphasis on parishioners)
 - Teach/develop necessary music skills to achieve balanced sound, voice, and intonation
 - Identify, audition, and hire section leaders within approved budget
 - Prepare music for all rehearsals and worship services, ordering materials as necessary and within constraints of music budget
 - Leverage our extensive library of choral music
- Identify/plan special musical events at St. Luke's
 - Lessons and Carols, Choral Evensong, Lenten Meditation
 - Identify outside musicians/groups as part of Sunday service or special services/performances
 - Plan necessary public relations/marketing (in consultation with Rector and Music Committee)
- Bachelor's or advanced degree in music (organ performance preferred) or equivalent experience
- AGO Certification (SPC or working toward)

Who We Are:

St. Luke's is a diverse, dynamic, and inclusive community that espouses equity and inclusion from all walks of life and experiences. It is the oldest Episcopal Church in Montclair, NJ. Located 12 miles west of Manhattan, St. Luke's was founded in the mid-19th century as a house of worship for English settlers who worked in local mills in the area which would eventually become modern-day Montclair. After the turn of the 20th century, the church developed a large and well-regarded music program of junior and senior choirs along with youth education and several working committees. True to its progressive roots, St. Luke's was the first church in Montclair to abolish pew rents in favor of the tithe and pledge to fund operations, a practice which continues to this day.

St. Luke's endeavors to joyfully seek and serve Christ as a "cathedral in the community" of Montclair and surrounding towns as is evidenced by its food ministry outreach (Toni's Kitchen, which works to eliminate food insecurity and has served over 1.5 million meals last year alone) and Toni's Closet (thrift store). Cultural and community offerings include Dance on the Lawn, Pumpkin Patch, Blessing of the Animals, and Lessons and Carols.

In addition to our excellent church space, we have a large assembly hall, a dedicated, acoustically superb choir/music rehearsal room, an extensive music library, and a well-maintained Mason and Hamlin grand piano (with a Chickering instrument in the church). The chancel houses our state-of-the-art three-manual Marshall and Ogletree ("M&O") Opus Two organ which replaced an aged E.M. Skinner organ (<https://www.marshallandogletree.com/blank-mdvrc>). Perhaps the most "Skinneresque" M&O organ, Opus Two includes three stops that were captured and digitized from the ranks that remained operable in our previous Skinner organ, notably a beautiful 8' Flugelhorn, an 8' Bombarde, and the Harp. We were delighted to preserve ranks from our previous organ, allowing an audible connection to the history of St. Luke's, not unlike archival photographs taken prior to a building renovation.

The Senior Choir, which sings at the 10:00am Sunday service from September until June as well as for major church holidays and some special services, comprises volunteers with paid section leaders. It has traditionally been a musically strong and adventurous choir, with many of its volunteer members able to sight read. It has performed a wide variety of music including Tudor anthems by Byrd, Tallis, and others, sometimes with viol or recorder consorts as appropriate; choral classics by Victoria, Bach, Mozart, Bruckner, and many others; *cori spezzati* works from the German and Venetian spheres; an a capella Vespers service in Old Church Slavonic, Welsh anthems, arrangements of American Spirituals, early American repertoire, as well as works by contemporary composers including Ola Gjeilo, Karl Jenkins, Morten Lauridsen, Bobby McFerrin, and others. The choir also performs the "core repertory" of works for Anglican worship by Rutter, Goodall, Ord, Willcocks, Britten, Vaughn Williams, et al. The choir rehearses one evening during the week for 90 minutes, and meets 45 minutes before the Sunday service to read the hymns, run through the anthem(s), and make any other last-minute adjustments.

The Junior Choir is currently dormant because of Covid concerns and needs to be revitalized as we emerge from the pandemic. The Junior Choir is an important social, musical, and religious educational activity for the youth in the community. It teaches musical skills, engenders camaraderie, and reinforces the work done in the religious education activities in which the youth participate. Traditionally, the Junior Choir sang an anthem once each month and occasionally joined with the Senior Choir for larger choral works.

Who You Are:

- If you are looking to joyfully seek and serve Christ through music, we're looking for you.
- If you are an erudite scholar of sacred music but also of all styles and genres, we're looking for you.
- If you are a true servant leader who wants to lead and enhance our excellent senior choir of paid section leaders and volunteer voices as well as build, develop, and lead a junior choir, we're looking for you.

Qualities We Are Seeking:

- Willingness to become part of the community and assist with musical outreach (musical offerings outside of Sunday services)
- Someone approachable and flexible who can manage expectations from the choir and church leadership
- A gentle, tactful, and attentive leader who has the ability to work with varying skill levels, age groups, and in different musical styles
- A true minister of music versed in appropriate liturgical music planning based on church seasons
- A musician with a broad taste and knowledge of performance practice
- An organized, efficient leader of rehearsals ("lesson plan" mentality)
- Knowledge of Episcopal liturgy is preferred but not required

Interested candidates are invited to submit a resume and cover letter to jobs@slechurch.org no later than August 19, 2022.