

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Houston, Texas

The Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas

Director of Music

Christ Church Cathedral seeks an exceptional musician and pastoral leader to serve as Director of Music. This position offers the opportunity to lead one of the preeminent sacred music programs in the Southwest, serving a vibrant downtown cathedral community with a deep commitment to musical excellence in worship in the fourth largest and most culturally diverse city in America.

The Cathedral

Founded in 1839 and consecrated as the Cathedral in 1949, Christ Church Cathedral stands at the heart of downtown Houston. Our mission is to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ through word and deed to the parish, the diocese, and the downtown community. The Cathedral serves as the seat of the Bishop of Texas and hosts diocesan liturgies while maintaining its full parish life under the leadership of the Dean and Vestry.

The Cathedral's commitment to excellence in music is deeply important to the membership. The Cathedral Choir has a distinguished history of performing major classical works, recording, and undertaking residencies at English cathedrals, including Westminster Abbey, York Minster, St. Paul's, Salisbury, and Canterbury. Though rooted in the Anglican choral tradition, we regularly perform music from the earliest plainchant and polyphony to commissions and premieres of modern repertoire that embrace Latin, jazz, and other idioms.

The Position

The Director of Music is a full-time position reporting directly to the Dean. The Director serves as a member of the senior leadership staff of the Cathedral and provides visionary artistic and administrative leadership for a comprehensive music program that serves the Cathedral's diverse worshipping communities.

The Music Program

Choirs and Ensembles

- The Cathedral Choir: Over fifty members comprising dedicated volunteers and ten professional staff singers, singing at the 11:00 a.m. Rite One Eucharist and for major liturgies throughout the year.
- The Parish Choir: Volunteers and staff singers providing music for the 9:00 a.m. Rite Two Eucharist.
- The Cathedral Treble Choir: Young women in grades 6–12 from the Cathedral and greater Houston community.
- A contemporary ensemble provides music for the 1:00 p.m. Spanish-language Eucharist.
- A trio of cello, harp and flute with the support of a cantor provides a contemplative backdrop to the 5:00 p.m. Celtic Eucharist ("The Well").

Staff

The Director of Music currently leads a team that includes a Cathedral Organist, a Director of the Treble Choir, and ten staff singers. The position allows flexibility to organize and optimize the staff as allowed by the music department budget.

The Organs

The Cathedral Organ is an Aeolian-Skinner (Op. 976, 1938) comprising 66 stops, 90 ranks, and 5,045 pipes. At the time of its construction, it was the largest organ in the southwestern United States. The instrument includes the William N. Barnard Memorial Antiphonal Organ by Schantz (1992) and was most recently enlarged with a new console, additional ranks, and Trompette en Chamade in 2012. Golding Chapel houses a smaller Aeolian-Skinner (Op. 3013, 1939) of 4 stops and 316 pipes, refurbished in 2019.

Full specifications are available at: www.christchurchcathedral.org/worship/music/organs

Responsibilities

Liturgical and Musical Leadership

- Be an enthusiastic and energetic ambassador for the Cathedral music program, recruiting the best musicians of all ages, both professional and volunteer.
- Plan, prepare, and direct music for Sunday Eucharists at 9:00 a.m. (Rite Two) and 11:00 a.m. (Rite One), working in close collaboration with the Dean and clergy.
- Recruit, train, and conduct the Cathedral Choir, Parish Choir, and work with the Director of the Treble Choir to support youth choral formation.
- Oversee music for Choral Evensong on major feasts (All Saints, Epiphany, Lent, Palm Sunday, Pentecost), Advent Lessons and Carols, and other special liturgies.
- Plan and coordinate music with brass, orchestra, or other instrumentalists for Christmas Eve and Holy Week.
- Develop programming for occasional major choral works (oratorios, cantatas, or similar) as part of the Cathedral's concert offerings.
- Oversee contracting and staffing of the ensembles for the Spanish-language and Celtic Eucharists, ensuring music of appropriate quality and character for those communities.

Administration and Team Leadership

- Collaborate with clergy to define the vision for liturgical ministry and contribute to the broader leadership and vision of the Cathedral.
- Support and make use of the administrative systems and policies of the Cathedral.
- Develop and manage the annual music budget, including compensation for staff singers and contracted musicians.
- Oversee maintenance and care of the Cathedral organs, pianos, and other instruments as well as the music library.

Tours and Community Engagement

- Plan and lead choir tours and residencies at English cathedrals, working with a tour company for travel logistics and continuing a tradition of international travel every three to four years.
- Actively promotes the Cathedral's role in the arts life of Houston, building relationships with cultural institutions, guest artists, and the broader musical community, fully embracing the cultural diversity of the city.

Qualifications

- Demonstrated excellence in choral conducting and the leadership of sacred music programs.
- Deep knowledge of the Anglican choral tradition and Episcopal liturgy, and a familiarity with a broad spectrum of other sacred repertoire.
- Significant experience working with volunteer and professional choirs in a parish, cathedral, or collegiate setting.
- Strong administrative and organizational skills, with experience in budget management and staff supervision.
- Ability to work collaboratively with clergy, staff, and lay leaders as part of a senior leadership team.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Graduate degree in music, sacred music, choral conducting, or equivalent credentials and experience.
- Keyboard proficiency is a requirement; organ skills are preferred.

Compensation and Benefits

- Salary: \$120,000-130,000 per annum commensurate with experience.
- Benefits: Full Episcopal Church Medical Trust health insurance; 18% employer contribution to the Church Pension Fund.
- Professional Development: Annual budget for continuing education and attendance at AAM and AGO national conferences.

Application Process

Interested candidates should submit the following materials to search@christchurchcathedral.org:

- A cover letter describing your interest in the position and your vision for sacred music ministry.
- A current curriculum vitae.
- The names and contact information of three professional references.
- Links to video recordings demonstrating choral conducting and organ or keyboard work.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

Christ Church Cathedral is an equal opportunity employer.