



Cathedral Church of the Nativity Position of Director of Music/Organist/Choirmaster

The Cathedral Church of the Nativity (Episcopal) in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania seeks an energetic and innovative full-time Director of Music/Organist/Choirmaster to provide strong leadership to oversee and expand the rich tradition and history of our music program. The Director of Music will be a colleague who provides support to and is supported by a diverse and talented staff of clergy and lay persons. This position reports directly to the Dean & Rector of the Cathedral.

The ideal candidate will be:

- An individual dedicated to the pastoral elements of music ministry and our mission – to know Christ, to make Him known, and to serve all people according to His example
- An expert musician who is well-versed in the diverse Anglican choral tradition, with strengths in both organ performance and choral conducting
- An individual who is able to organize a variety of musicians and appreciates and respects the diverse worship services at Nativity
- An educator dedicated to raising musical literacy through performance and outreach within the adult congregation, our youth, and the greater community

About Nativity

Founded in 1862, Nativity is the seat of the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem and has 1,058 members. Worship life is rich, with multiple liturgical expressions, including traditional Rite II services, Choral Eucharist, Spanish Language services, contemporary services, Celtic spirituality experiences, and healing services. As part of eastern Pennsylvania's scenic Lehigh Valley, Bethlehem is a diverse city of 75,000 (with a metro region of 840,000), conveniently located between New York City and Philadelphia. Along with Allentown and Easton, the region is home to a vibrant arts and music community, excellent universities and school systems, a nationally unique parks system, and a rich blend of diverse cultures, cuisines, and restaurants. After a successful \$3.2 million fundraising campaign, we are currently engaged in implementing a new master plan for our campus and in growing relationships with our community.

Music Ministry

The music ministry at Nativity includes our dedicated adult Cathedral Choir with paid section leaders. Prior to the pandemic the music program also included the Cathedral Choristers (youth choir) and Cathedral Handbell Ringers—ensembles that could easily be re-energized. Additionally, the Cathedral currently employs a pianist for the contemporary service and hires professional musicians for the Celtic Spirituality services. The Spanish Language services at Nativity currently consist of recorded music created by dedicated parishioners. The Cathedral Choir presents music at our weekly Choral Eucharist, as well as periodic offerings of Evensong, Compline, and other concerts throughout the program year. The choir has performed both nationally and internationally and has been privileged to serve as the choir-in-residence at multiple cathedrals throughout the United Kingdom as well as the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. We are particularly proud of our Cathedral Arts series, featuring creative musical experiences including groups and individuals from within the parish to nationally and internationally known performing artists and ensembles spanning a variety of genres. The Cathedral strives to serve as a pillar of the arts and cultural community of Bethlehem and the greater Lehigh Valley. We hope our new Director of Music will help cultivate and strengthen new and existing relationships with our neighbors to elevate the Cathedral's musical profile.

In addition to overseeing our music ministry and artistic programming, the Director of Music will also oversee and manage the hiring and coordination of any supplemental musicians needed to maintain our tradition of excellent, stylistically appropriate music for all of our varied liturgical expressions. From time to time, as the Director of Music for the cathedral of the diocese, this person will be called upon to provide music for special diocesan events beyond normal parish commitments. The Director of Music must be a person eager to participate in the life and growth of our congregation and our community through the gift of music.

Instruments

Organ - The Austin Organ, Opus 2776 (1998)

In 1998, Austin Organ, Inc. installed 47 ranks over three manuals and pedals including eleven ranks from the 1940 Harrison Aeolian Skinner Organ. Walker added nine digital voices in 2008. The brilliant reeds and solo stops greatly enhance the Cathedral instrument, be it for liturgical service playing or recital literature.

Pianos - Steinway B and Kawai GE-1 | *Handbells* - Four octaves of Schulmerich Handbells

Salary & Benefits

\$72,000 per year plus health insurance and pension

Qualifications

- Follower of Jesus Christ striving to pattern their life on Christ's example of love, justice, and mercy
- Bachelor's Degree in relevant music discipline (Master's Degree or equivalent AGO certifications preferred)
- Ability to serve as a pastoral presence to the congregation and community
- Minimum of five years of demonstrated experience in an Anglican/Episcopal Church (or similar liturgical setting)
- Excellent organ and choral conducting skills
- Excellent sight-reading skills
- Demonstrated knowledge of vocal pedagogy and proper singing technique
- Demonstrated knowledge of and appreciation for varying musical styles
- Excellent organizational and communication skills
- Comfortable with the use of the internet, email, social media, and virtual meetings
- Enthusiasm for working with a diverse team
- Willing and able to serve in a variety of liturgical settings including, but not limited to, weddings (including same-sex weddings), funerals, ordinations, confirmations, and ecumenical services

Application Procedure

Qualified applicants should submit application materials via email to: musicsearch@nativitycathedral.org

To be considered, the following materials must be received by **Friday, May 26, 2023**:

- A cover letter explaining your interest in and qualifications for the position
- A current resume/CV
- Contact information for three professional references
- Any other relevant supporting materials including recordings of hymn playing, improvisation, recital work, choral conducting, and singing (if applicable). Please use an online video platform such as YouTube, Google Drive, etc. for the video footage

Any questions regarding the application process should be directed to: musicsearch@nativitycathedral.org