

**Job Title: Director of Music/Organist, Christ's Church Rye**

**Status of Position:** Full-time - 35 hrs/week.

**About our Parish:**

Christ's Church, Rye is a historic Episcopal parish located 25 miles northeast of New York City in a charming coastal suburb easily accessible by train. Our growing church is blessed with young families, devoted long-time parishioners, a lively youth program, and a strong sense of community. A long-standing commitment to musical excellence in the Anglican choral tradition is the centerpiece of our worship life. We look to call a Director of Music excited about nurturing and growing a multi-generational parish choir while continuing to support and train a new generation of choristers. 2020 marks the 325<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christ's Church and we will celebrate this milestone by calling a joyful, visionary, collaborative Director of Music to lead us into the next decade and beyond.

**How to Apply:**

Please send an email with your resume (CV) and a cover letter explaining why you are interested in the position to [musicsearch@ccrye.org](mailto:musicsearch@ccrye.org). The deadline for applicants is February 7, 2020.

**Our Music Program and Liturgies:**

Our adult choir of approximately 20 people includes parish volunteers supported by paid section leaders. Our choristers (3<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade) sing with the adults most Sundays and rehearse during the week. The choir rehearses once during the week and again before each service. Our Cherub Choir (kindergarten - 2nd grade) rehearses each week and sings on special occasions.

Our principal Sunday 10 am service uses Rite II from the 1979 Prayer Book, with congregational singing from the 1982 Hymnal. Psalms are sung, mainly in Anglican Chant. Holy Week services include the full Triduum, with the choir singing all services. We also offer Morning Prayer and Evensong services throughout the program year.

We prefer clear-tone, traditional English choral music, but not exclusively. Favorite composers include Byrd, Duruflé, Fauré, Ireland, Jackson, Mendelssohn, Palestrina, Stanford, Stainer, and Tallis.

The choir has been on two pilgrimages to the UK in the last decade, singing daily services at cathedrals and churches. The choir has also frequently sung for ordinations and other services at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and other NY cathedrals.

**Our Instruments:**

The church has a 1964 3M 55 stop Austin organ and two grand pianos, Steinway O, Estonia 7', both in excellent condition.

## **Our Vision:**

We are committed to a multigenerational choir capable of singing challenging and inspiring music. We strive to integrate the choir as worship leaders supporting the liturgy and congregational singing. We seek a 21<sup>st</sup> century music program that teaches our tradition while also expanding liturgical musical expression in innovative ways.

## **Essential Functions:**

- Recruit for, organize, rehearse, and conduct the choir (professional section leaders, adult volunteers, choristers, cherubs)
- Play the organ and/or piano for all services requiring music, including special services such as weddings and funerals.
- Participate in regular church staff meetings and, in collaboration with the rector and/or other clergy, plan liturgies and select hymns and liturgical music.
- Manage the budget of the music program with a vestry liaison.
- Perform all administrative tasks for the music program, including coordination of musical aspects of worship leaflets and overseeing the choral library.
- Hire support musicians as needed, including choral section leaders, soloists, substitute musicians, and occasional instrumentalists for special services
- Coordinate occasional church-sponsored concerts and music events.

## **Job Qualifications and Key Characteristics:**

- Bachelor's Degree in Organ or Sacred Music. MA in Organ or Sacred Music a plus.
- Deep understanding and sympathy for the Anglican musical tradition, solid familiarity with Anglican chant, and experience with Episcopal liturgies.
- Proven excellence in vocal training and choral conducting.
- High level of technical skill on the organ and piano, including choral accompaniment.
- Strong communication, leadership, and people skills, balanced with a warm, welcoming approach befitting a largely volunteer choir.
- Christian commitment and pastoral skills.
- Administrative acumen (including budget management), attention to detail, and ability to meet deadlines.
- Experience with children is important, with a genuine desire to grow a cherub/chorister program, and the ability to keep children interested and engaged while working on serious music.
- Strong commitment to working collaboratively with the rector, staff, lay leadership, and members of the choir to plan services and design ways to inspire and engage the parish.
- A deep appreciation of tradition balanced with an open mind and optimism about the 21st century church.

**Salary and Benefits:**

Salary is commensurate with experience and in keeping with recommended guidelines.

Benefits include:

- Health insurance
- Prescription drug plan
- Dental insurance
- Sick Leave
- Pension plan
- Maternity/Paternity leave
- Vacation: 2 – 4 weeks, based on experience
- Paid continuing education negotiable
- On campus housing a possibility after the first year

**For more information** about us and our music, go to [www.ccrye.org](http://www.ccrye.org)