



Christ Church Bronxville

SEEKING A FULL-TIME DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Now seeking a creative full-time Director of Music to help us live into a new vision for music ministry.

Competitive salary and housing provided.

To begin on or before July 1, 2024

WHO WE ARE

Christ Church Bronxville is an Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New York. The people of Christ Church have built a strong congregation over the many years since it was founded in 1901. We consist of varying races, ethnicities, ages, sexual orientations, political orientations, and geographical locations. We believe our diverse backgrounds help build a strong community based on the knowledge that God's love for humanity knows no bounds, and that with God all things are possible.

Music is integral to the worship, liturgy, spiritual development, and common life of the parish at Christ Church Bronxville. Grounded in the Episcopal choral tradition, our music ministry seeks to offer opportunities for all ages – children, youth, and adults—to become involved in the life of our parish through music, to grow in faith, to develop musical skills, and to serve in worship. Through our music ministry, we aspire to be known by our neighbors as a welcoming and inclusive community that nurtures and fosters music and spirituality through concerts and outreach both by our musicians, musical ensembles, and others. More about our music program: <https://www.ccbny.org/music>

OUR HISTORY

The rough-hewn stone walls of Christ Church, combined with its slate floor provide a favorable acoustic for instrumental and vocal music. The building has served as a recording studio for The American Boychoir, The New York Virtuoso Singers, and as a concert venue for solo instrumentalists. Notable musicians Ray Francis Brown, Robert G. Owen, Christopher Wells, and most recently Philip Stopford, served the parish as organists and choirmasters. Currently, Vaughn Mauren has led our music program as Interim Director of Music since September of 2021. Recently, the Christ Church choir has sung on tour in Westminster Abbey, as well as a full week of services at Truro Cathedral in England.

THE MINISTRY POSITION

We seek a full time Director of Music who is a consummate musician with extensive experience in and commitment to music in worship in the Episcopal tradition, who can lead, teach, and inspire others. The Director of Music will:

- Implement a vision for a holistic and intergenerational music ministry
- Draw together, lead, and oversee the requisite team of paid staff and/or volunteers to enact such a ministry, and develop and manage the associated budget
- Have demonstrated organizational skills in selecting music, supporting liturgy, etc.
- Have demonstrated ability in program building
- Have the ability to work collaboratively with the Rector and other members of the leadership team

Applicants with a Bachelor's of Music degree and five years of church music ministry are sought. Priority will be given to those with Master's of Music degrees and previous success in developing music (including choral) programs for all ages.

THE CHOIRS

The Christ Church Choir (Adults)

This gifted and dedicated group offers their time and talent to the Christ Church community, particularly as leaders in worship. They sing a wide variety of music from Renaissance polyphony to modern compositions. The Choir leads the Sunday 10:00 a.m. services, with extra music offerings, especially during Advent, Christmas and Easter. The choral season runs from September through May and includes weekly evening rehearsals on Wednesdays. During the summer session, there are no weekday rehearsals. Seasonal highlights often include two concerts, which are presented by the Choir as well as professional instrumentalists. Evensong is offered every fourth Sunday at 5:00 p.m. There is a dedicated budget for staff singer positions within the approximately 20 members of the Christ Church Choir.

Congregational Choir

Periodically through the year, volunteers gather to enjoy the choir experience without making a weekly commitment. The Congregational Choir joins the Christ Church Choir for the Wednesday rehearsal prior to singing on Sunday.

Handbell Choir

Currently, this dedicated ensemble rehearses once a week and is directed by a parishioner and member of the Christ Church Choir. They play several times each year in church and add a new dimension to worship.

Children's Choir

Our once thriving children's choirs have been on hiatus for several years, and the parish is hopeful for a return of children's voices to our worship. Previously, there were two dedicated ensembles: Children's Choir (ages 3-sixth grade), a volunteer-led group, who sang in the 10am service on the fourth Sunday of every month; and Schola (unchanged voices in grades 3-8), who rehearsed every Wednesday and led the Children's Choir on Fourth Sundays.

THE INSTRUMENTS

Casavant Frère's Opus 3878

The Right Reverend Mark Sisk, 15th Episcopal Bishop of New York, dedicated the current organ at a service of Solemn Evensong on January 31, 2010. A dedicatory recital was given by concert organist Ken Cowan, who lauded the organ as "truly inspiring." The final design of Casavant Frère's Opus 3878 encompasses a 3,792 pipe, 65 rank four-manual organ in the front of the church, and a smaller Antiphonal division in the gallery, devised to complement the main organ in the support of hymn singing. The Swell and Solo divisions of the main organ are enclosed, making their volume adjustable through the manipulation of shades in front of the pipes. It was initially hoped that the Positiv division would serve as a third enclosed division, but it was determined that doing so would not allow for the egress of sound needed from pipes located in more remote sections of the chamber.

Full details about the organ are available at: <https://pipeorgandatabase.org/organ/44206>

Antiphonal Console

Former Director of Music Christopher Wells completed the construction and installation of a new antiphonal console in 2016. Through a partnership with SSOS, the antiphonal console offers an easily moveable additional console for the church - creating new opportunities for the choirs, for accompaniment, and for concerts.

Pianos

Christ Church maintains four grand pianos for rehearsal and performance use - three Steinways (L, M, and M) and one Yamaha C1.

Handbells and Timpani

The parish owns three octaves of Malmark Handbells and 3 octaves of Malmark Chimes as a part of our collection of musical instruments. The church also owns a set of 4 timpani.

The Village of Bronxville

Bronxville is a one square mile village in Westchester County, NY with 6,500 residents. It is only 15 miles from midtown Manhattan. The village is known for its community-minded spirit and beautiful architecture. Even though a “small” village, Bronxville has two colleges nearby, a train station, grocery store, quaint shops, a hospital in the center of town and a full range of municipal services.

Compensation and Benefits

- Salary range beginning at \$75,000. Salary may be negotiated based on skill, education, and experience.
- Housing provided on-site or a housing allowance.
- A generous portion of medical, dental, and vision insurance premiums.
- Pension Contributions.
- Continuing Education leave and funding.

To apply

To apply, please send:

- Cover letter and ministry statement;
- Curriculum vitae;
- Contact information for at least three references;
- Links to videos of organ playing (solo repertoire, service playing, choral accompaniment).

to the Rev. Dr. Kurt Gerhard, Rector, at employment@ccbny.org.

Applications received before January 15, 2024 will be given preference.