

Music Minister

Christ Church, Ridley Park. A congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.

We are seeking a part time collaborative partner to be the new minister of music. This person will plan and implement the Music Ministry which currently includes a lovely organ and ensemble choir. We are a kind, stable, and generous congregation in the center of Episcopal worship styles and musicianship. Our choir is limited by the physical space of the nave, however the possibility for a classical, yet creative, music minister are considerable. We are open to considering a duo sharing the duties of this position.

Ridley Park is a lovely historic suburban community and good schools with easy access to I-95 (mile 8), I-476, the Philadelphia airport, and the Wilmington/Newark Septa line. Learn more about us on our website: christchurchridleypark.org

Professional and Technical Skills, Qualifications and Requirements

Appropriate musical education and experience to share with this community:

- Talented Organ/Keyboard skills for hymn leadership.
- Proficient choir directing, rehearsing, and teaching with both professional and volunteer singers.
- Familiarity with common Episcopal liturgy, music, and church calendar (or the commitment to be a fast learner).
- Understanding of appropriate music software and competency with digital communications.
- Experience with initiating opportunities for music ministry that offer fresh avenues of sacred interaction and/or social impact.

Responsibilities and Expectations

- Weekly preparation of music for services appropriate to the church calendar and lectionary, balancing the familiar with new pieces in the style typical of our congregation.
- Lead choir rehearsals, rehearsing choral music and hymns needed for service during the academic school year.
- Play Organ and/or Keyboard for all Sunday and other significant services (or prepare hybrid function or arrange other musicians) including but not limited to” All Saints Day, Thanksgiving, Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve/Day, Ash Wednesday, Tenebrae, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, Easter Day, Pentecost.
- Transmit in a timely manner music selections to the Parish Administrator and Rector.
- Schedule and supervise professional singers (4), nurture relationships with volunteer choir members and help them to grow in their skills.
- Communicate to tech team regarding additional instruments or special music, or elements outside of the typical pattern so that microphones and camera angles may be prepared. (1 streaming service per Sunday, most seasonal services, many funerals).
- Arrange other instrumentalists as needed.

- Encourage growth in singing for the congregation, especially teaching new music.
- Have first right of refusal for all weddings or funerals held at CCRP; communicate with clergy and participants to choose appropriate music.
- Maintain an organized and updated choral library – keep up to date on needs for each service.
- Arrange for substitute organists/musicians.
- Purchase of new music and supplies within budget or working with leadership to finance as needed.
- Supervise and schedule maintenance of organ, digital piano, and analog pianos.
- Contribute articles and submit relevant information to communications director.
- Honor copyright licensing agreements and compliance.
- Assist streaming team with having necessary information to be compliant while producing on our digital ministry platforms (YouTube and website).
- Build networks related to music ministry.
- Attend agreed upon portion of staff meetings.
- Pro-actively and cooperatively adapt to changing circumstances and needs for the whole mission and ministry of CCRP.
- Be a hearty team member of Christ Church staff and community, working wholeheartedly for our mission in this place and time.

Areas for Growth

As we hopefully emerge from the pandemic and enter more fully the new era that began in our life together, there is desire for innovative avenues of music ministry that connect to the needs and interests of the Ridley Park area. What follows is not the end of the possibilities, simply what has been stirring in the hearts and minds of the leadership. If one of these calls to you, or another idea that seems to fit, we would like to learn more about how and why.

- Charitable concert series that helps us connect with varied musicians and offers our sacred space for more than worship.
- A no-charge after-school music education program.
- Someday, when singing together is easy, pastoral staff desire to expand our worship experiences to include something from either the Taizé or paperless music movement.

As this is a part-time position, we know most applicants will have other work. We are glad to make an agreement for a music minister to use the office space and/or other spaces (and the instruments) to have a music studio, or other venture that aligns with our mission or serves the common good.

Instruments and Choir:

- Opus 73 organ installed in 2003. 8 ranks, 64 digital voices, 3 manual console with 82 draw knobs, 18 tilting tablets, 3 expression shoes, 56 thumb pistons and 24 toe studs. Hybrid function by Walker Technical.
- Yamaha Clavinova (less than 3 years old) in sanctuary.
- Two upright pianos in parish building.
- Malmark Handbells and Chimes
- Ensemble Choir with four professional singers and varying volunteer members. Choir seating tightly fits about 20 adults.

Important Information, Compensation and Vacation and Continuing Education

Position Reports to: Rector (who is a singer) who is in her third year of pastoring at Christ Church, Ridley Park. In the Episcopal Church a Rector has the final say on all music selections, however, this Rector will work thoughtfully with the music minister in the selection of music for services.

- Successful applicants will complete a background check and safe church, and anti-racism training in accordance with Episcopal Church best practices; and live a life that will not reflect poorly on the reputation of this inclusive community.
- \$25-30k per year depending on experience; 15-20 hours a week balanced appropriately with Holy Week and Advent requiring more time.
- Four weeks a year vacation, preferably during the summer.
- Family leave may be negotiated for as needed.
- Continuing Education is expected and can be financially supported.

Applying

The position is open until filled, however we are hopeful to be well on our way by Lent. If interested in this position please submit the following before January 31, 2022:

- A letter of interest, especially addressing any of the 'areas for growth' or flexibility opportunities listed above.
- A resume or CV and two professional references
- An audio or video file of no more than 10 minutes of relevant musicianship.

Please submit all inquiries and applications to:

Music Minister Search
the Reverend Jane Gober
rector@christchurchridleypark.org
Christ Church
104 Nevin Street
Ridley Park, PA 19078