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**Job title:** Director of Music

**Reports to:** The Rector

**Employment Classification:** Half-time

**Average hours per week:** 20

**Narrative:**

The Falls Church, Falls Church, Virginia, seeks to hire a half-time Director of Music.

Founded in 1732, The Falls Church is simultaneously one of the oldest and one of the newest congregations in The Episcopal Church. Returning to our historic campus in 2012 after a legal battle brought on by disaffiliation, the parish has grown exponentially into a community of over 800 diverse Christians dedicated to active and faithful Kingdom-building. We are living into a strategic plan that calls us specifically into ministry with children and youth, the wounded faithful, and queer faithful, so that we become a center of lived faith, active, progressive Christians in a post-Christian world. We are liturgically broad and faithful to *The Book of Common Prayer 1979*. The Falls Church is poised for growth, and the Director of Music position will play an integral role in this community that values thoughtful worship with an increasing Episcopal identity.

The Director of Music will help us live into our mission and support the worship of the parish by planning the musical life of the community, conducting choirs, accompanying corporate worship, and strategically growing the music program both within the parish and within the community. This staff member will bear responsibility with the rector for the musical and liturgical life of the parish that worships in an historic 1769 nave (capacity 450) and a 1993 contemporary semi-circular nave (capacity 800).

The position begins 1 July 2025 after the retirement of the present Director of Music, Sonya Subbayya Sutton, who is happy to answer any questions about the position and the community. It is a strategic goal to transition this position to full-time once the budget can accommodate that increased expenditure.

**Essential Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Choose hymnody, service music, and choral and incidental offerings, in consultation with the rector, for two Sunday morning worship services in two different naves (one in summer)
- Rehearse The Historic Church Choir and the Contemporary Church Choir; conduct both on Sunday morning and special services
- Accompany corporate worship on a weekly basis as well as holy days, feasts, observances, and special events

- Support corporate worship with sensitive hymn playing, including voice-leading and the maximization of the organ's capabilities, teaching unfamiliar hymnody/service music to the congregation
- Coordinate guest instrumentalists/vocalists as needed
- Accompany (and arrange for soloists if necessary) all funerals and weddings, compensation over and above the salaried position
- Nurture the development of an outstanding parish music program, including enlarging and polishing current choirs; establish, in time and conjunction with the director of children and family ministries, and committed parents, a children's choral program
- Continue the growing musical profile of The Falls Church as a community recognized for broad and diverse musical excellence
- Develop relationships within the larger Washington musical community
- Promote outside usage of the acoustically remarkable Contemporary Church and other spaces
- Arrange for substitute organist/choir director when Director of Music is away
- Oversee maintenance of both organs and all pianos
- Attend parish staff meetings on Tuesday mornings
- Other duties as assigned

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's degree and/or master's degree in organ with a concentration in choral conducting.
- Experience and facility with Anglican/Episcopal liturgy as well as an appreciation for the breadth of musical expression from plainsong to American hymnody.
- Broad knowledge of and experience with diverse choral and organ repertoire
- Liturgical sensitivity and the ability to read clergy and congregation and respond appropriately
- Reasonable skill with adjusting accessible pipes to correct minor voicing issues or ciphers in emergency situations

**Instruments:**

- 1993 Steiner-Reck, Op. 98, 49 ranks
- 1967 Schantz, Op. 803, 12 ranks
- 2002 Steinway B grand piano
- Multiple upright pianos

**Work environment:**

- Requires reasonable office hours, both on site and remote, and participation in special events, often on weekends
- Regular choral rehearsals and special rehearsals as needed in anticipation of special services.
- Participate in the life of the parish outside Sunday mornings and rehearsals, including presence at coffee hour after service
- Ability to work independently as well as collaboratively with clergy, staff, and members of the parish

**Benefits:**

- Salary range \$30K-\$36K, commensurate with experience
- Group medical/vision/dental insurance
- Vacation/sick leave
- 403(b) plan

The Falls Church is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Resumes and cover letters should be sent to The Rev. Burl Salmon at [bsalmon@thefallschurch.org](mailto:bsalmon@thefallschurch.org). Interviews on a rolling basis.

*This job description is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all the duties and responsibilities of the position, some or all of which may change without notice.*