

Music Director

St Mark's Episcopal Church in Palo Alto, CA is searching for one individual to be our Music Director and instrumentalist (organ/piano) to shape, direct and inspire our music ministry.

Music is vital to the spiritual life at St. Mark's. Listening to and participating in music grounds us as a diverse community and deepens our experiences of the Holy. We have and will always treasure the classical tradition, yet we are also newly inspired, partially from our recent streaming experience during the pandemic, to explore the promise of a wider range of musical offerings. We find chanting from various traditions to be centering and also find that singing folk spirituals or summer camp/retreat songs or contemporary compositions that are both musically astute and lyrically meaningful is uplifting and conducive to deepening the souls of those gathered. In other words, we celebrate our musical tradition which has endured and remains worshipful while also enjoying new explorations that, offered with the same regard for theological integrity and musical quality, will nurture us in new ways.

In our search for a new Music Director we seek a person with:

- a demonstrated record of high quality music performance and leadership
- a respect for the musical traditions of St. Mark's and the Anglican church
- a deep interest in how music connects with our liturgical year and theology
- experience incorporating multiple musical styles and traditions while maintaining the integrity of the worship experience
- the ability to direct a choir of adult volunteers with two (presently) paid section leaders
- a willingness to experiment and the skills needed to invite the many talented musicians at St. Mark's (and the wider community) to participate in those experiments
- ideas about how to engage children, youth and families in music, and a willingness to work with leaders in our children, youth and family ministries to integrate music into both our regular worship and the broader picture of spiritual formation and contemplative experience
- good communication and people skills that can be deployed in helping our congregants try new things, learn more about our musical traditions, increase our appreciation for the art of listening to music, improve our confidence in participating in music, and be ready for some experiments that don't really work or may take some time to work well
- an enjoyment in working on a team and valuing collaboration, both with staff and volunteers; and the ability to work together with flexibility, humor and an ultimate respect for our purpose in strengthening and nourishing souls
- a love for Christian community and a strong desire to create a healthy community with musicians and choir members and so enrich our regular services, special services (memorials, weddings, etc.) and special parish events

Preferred qualifications:

- skilled organist able to play services in the Episcopal tradition (1957 Casavant with four manuals and over 4,500 pipes)
- familiarity with wide range of other Christian musical traditions (eg. Gregorian, Taizé, and Iona chants; Spirituals/Gospel; Hymns from other mainline denominations)
- fluency with expansive/inclusive language resources

Our next Music Director will need to be ready to be creative with the demands of post-pandemic ministry, including hybrid services and the use of technology. We do foresee hiring additional musicians (including organists) for feast days and special occasions.

Compensation starts at \$45,000 annually and is dependent on experience. A university degree in music and at least 5 years of liturgical experience is preferred. Average weekly commitment is 20 hours and includes planning, preparing, leading and directing the rehearsals and weekly service music (and special services and events) and developing programs in collaboration with parish clergy and program staff. Exempt position, pro-rated vacation and pension. Works in concert with the clergy and reports to the rector.

St. Mark's celebrates diversity, respects the dignity of every human being, and is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply.

Application

We are currently accepting and reviewing applications. The position will remain open until filled. Applicants should send a resume, cover letter, audio recording or video of both vocal and instrumental performances and names and contact information for at least three professional and/or ministerial references by either email or postal mail to: The Rev. Nikky Wood: nikky@saint-marks.com or St. Mark's Episcopal Church, attn: The Rev. Nikky Wood, 600 Colorado Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

May God bless your own search for a good place to share your gifts.