

Organist/Choir Director St Mark's Anglican Church

Part-time position with access to church and choir room for private lessons.

History

From the first years as a parish, music has been a very important part of St. Mark's worship. The Senior Choir was formed in 1955 and continues to the present day. St Mark's gained the reputation for being a strong choral parish, while still remaining very much a family church. This can still be seen today, where the love of music has been passed down through the generations - parents, children and even grandchildren being part of that musical tradition. The choir continued to meet socially during the lockdowns of COVID and music was a strong part of our pre-recorded video services on YouTube.

The 1999 musical history link below takes you through St. Mark's first 50 years, and the start of a musical tradition in the church, with many talented organists, choir directors and choristers who have passed through St. Mark's.

<https://stmarksottawa.ca/archives/50th-anniversary-souvenir-book/chapter-6-the-ministry-of-music/>

Worship

We are a traditional parish in our way of worship. We use the blue Common Praise hymn book, and the BAS (Book of Alternative Services). The 10 am is sung and uses page 185 of the BAS. The choir and congregation sing the psalm to Anglican Chant, and there is a senior choir anthem each week. Our choristers travel from many parts of Ottawa to be in the choir and are a very dedicated, involved group. Currently, the choir consists of about 20 people with various skill levels. Music is very important to the parish, to both choir and congregation. The congregation enjoys singing and being part of the worship experience. In September 2021, we changed our online service from a pre-recorded service to livestreaming. The main Sunday service is livestreamed to our YouTube channel ([St Marks YouTube](#)), as well as some of the special services.

There are number of special choral services throughout the year, including Carol Services during the Advent season, Christmas services, and Ash Wednesday as well as several services during Holy Week.

St Mark's Choir has an extensive repertoire incorporating a variety of musical styles. Originally, we had a very traditional Anglican approach to music. Over the past years, we have added diversity and now our repertoire ranges from medieval to contemporary.

For the last number of years we have used St James Music Press to add to our repertoire. The church pays the yearly subscription for this. We have particularly used this resource throughout the pandemic since there is flexible voicing and all the copyrights are released for recording.

The skills we seek in our organist/choir director:

- Able to work collaboratively
- Adaptability and flexibility
- Good interpersonal skills
- Knowledge of Anglican tradition or willingness to learn
- Willingness to play both organ and piano.

Responsibilities:

The organist/choir director reports directly to and takes direction from the priest.

They select the music for the service in advance taking into account the season and the readings and the suitability to the different parts of the service, subject to approval by the priest.

They prepare the choir to sing at services so that the choir feels comfortable with what they are offering.

They are responsible for upkeep of the piano and organ.

Application Process:

Applications are being accepted immediately and will be reviewed starting on July 27, 2022. Please send applications which include a resume to stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca