



Job Title: Organist, Church of the Messiah

Overview

Messiah is an intergenerational, progressive Episcopal parish, priding itself on its warm, loving, and inclusive urban ministry. Located in the thriving and revitalized urban downtown of Santa Ana, worshiping in the oldest continuously used church building in Orange County, we embrace both our over 135-year historic past and an exciting and limitless future.

Drawing our membership from throughout the Orange County and Long Beach geographic area, we offer a sacred space that is open to and affirming of LGBTQ persons, multiracial, multicultural, intergenerational, and accessible to those wishing to be in dialogue and community with others, to grow in spirituality, and to experience the beauty of holiness. Within our parish and in our outreach, we nurture deep and respectful relationships with followers of many faith traditions, including Judaism, Islam and many questioning and agnostic people. Worshiping in our historic wood-shingled red church, we engage deeply with both ancient texts and contemporary prayers, attending to the dreams and desires of many voices and life experiences, including people across all economic, social and educational strata, with particular attention to voices at the margins in our modern world. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you are welcome at Messiah and its liturgies.

Messiah is located a few short blocks from the heart of downtown Santa Ana, a thriving urban space with wonderful restaurants, an active nightlife and weekend culture, all in areas connected to the earliest history of Orange County. Positioned less than an hour from Los Angeles (in good traffic!), ninety minutes from the snow of the San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountains, twenty-to-thirty minutes from wonderful beaches and the Pacific Ocean, and ten minutes from Disneyland, Messiah reflects the remarkable diversity of its Southern California landscape. The parish supports two priests (Rector and Associate Priest), an assisting priest faculty-affiliated at the University of California-Irvine, three music staff, and congregants from many fields and careers, all consistent with the diversity of the local area. More information available at <http://www.messiah-santaana.org/>.

About the Position

- Position Title: Organist
- The position is a part-time, 10-12 hour per week appointment
- Position includes an annual performance evaluation
- Work creatively with the Director of Music and Liturgy and the Rector in liturgical and music planning throughout the church year, including especially organ voluntaries, choral literature and hymnody

- Be responsible for maintaining excellence in traditional Anglican choral music and hymnody, through leadership at the organ, at the 8:00AM and 10:15AM Sunday services, while being open to the sensibilities of other choral and musical sacred traditions.
- Support choral ensembles with a positive, empathetic vision for musical growth and the development of clear standards for quality and commitment, with responsibilities including RSCM Chorister rehearsal and Adult Choir rehearsals on Thursday evenings
- Possess, in addition to strong and sensitive service playing and accompanying skills, imaginative leadership, pastoral sensibility, communication skills and experience working with a wide range of professional and volunteer musicians.

Qualifications and Skills

- Basic requirements for the Organist position are a Bachelor's of Music (or equivalent). The position requires a working knowledge and love of Anglican liturgy, strong hymn and service music playing skills, knowledge of organ literature appropriate to the seasons of the Church year, and an ability to work flexibly with a culturally-diverse congregation.

Compensation

- Salary is contingent on qualifications, experience and is negotiable. Additional added compensation for covering weddings, funerals, and special services is available.
- Commensurate with professional expectations of national organizations, including AGO and AAM

Application Process

- Deadline for Submission: Monday, February 25th, 2019
- Please send letter of interest, C.V. or résumé to rector@messiah-santaana.org
Attention: Music Search.
- The position is intended to commence immediately, but depending on circumstance, the date may be flexible.
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Messiah is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of a person's race, nationality, gender, age, religion, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation.

More information about Church of the Messiah's music programs (next page)

Music-Making at Messiah

Messiah currently houses three choral ensembles:

The Messiah Adult Choir, an adult ensemble with paid Staff Singers, with both professional and volunteer singers (12-15 singers).

The Messiah Choristers, our thriving program for children and youth, now entering its fourth season, with weekly rehearsal, and Junior and Senior Choristers singing at multiple services throughout the program year. This program also includes attendance at the RSCMA Newport Course, in Rhode Island, or RSCMA Pacific Northwest Course, held in both Portland, OR & Seattle, WA (rotating), funded by parish members for the last five years. The program implements the RSCM *Voice for Life* curriculum. (10 Choristers)

The Noon Choir, an adult ensemble of 4-8 members that sings at the 12:00PM Sunday service, under the leadership of the Associate Musician for Spanish-language services. All three choirs combine with the other ensembles for bilingual services twice a year.

Messiah instruments include a 21-rank, 2-manual 1903 Möller pipe organ (rebuilt twice), two grand pianos, and two upright rehearsal pianos on campus.

Music and Worship at Messiah

Messiah celebrates three Holy Eucharists every Sunday, two in English and one in Spanish, with typical attendance around 35-40 at the 8:00AM said service (with organ) and 100 at 10:15AM Choral Eucharist. A Spanish-language Eucharist is offered at 12:00PM, with 60-70 in attendance, covered musically by a separate Music Associate. In addition to regular Sunday services, the Messiah Choir and Senior Choristers present three Evensong services a year, periodic Choral Complines, a candlelight service of Advent Lessons and Carols, and a Good Friday Passion service. Choral literature presented in the the last several program years included the Rheinberger *Mass in E flat for Double Choir*, Antonio Lotti's *Mass for Three Voices*, Jonathan Dove's *Seek him that Maketh the Seven Stars*, James Macmillan's *a New Song*, Olivier Messiaen's *SO Sacrum Convivum*, Howells' *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in G*, and *Te Deum* (Collegium Regale), Sumsion's *They that Go Down to the Sea in Ships*, and Wesley's *Blessed be the God and Father*, among many others.

Friends of Music

Friends of Music program fundraises and supports the music program at Messiah by funding Staff Singer positions, buying music for the choral ensembles, providing funds for professional instrumentalists to supplement liturgical celebrations throughout the year (All Saints' Day, Christmas, and Easter), and to fund musical concert offerings with a Candlelight Concert series. Messiah also hosts concerts and recitals throughout the year in conjunction with the Santa Ana Sites series, student recital and concerts from the Orange County School of the Arts (OCSA), and recitals and concerts featuring students from local university music schools.