

PARISH MUSIC PROFILE:

Our Values and Vision for the Music and Music Program at St. Columba's

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this profile is to give prospective candidates a clear sense of our values, our vision, and our hopes for the future of the music program at St. Columba's. As part of our search for a Minister of Music, we gathered input from the congregation using an approach modeled on appreciative inquiry. In conjunction with our clergy and our past and current music directors, and with extensive input from parishioners, we developed the themes and qualities described below.

THE VALUES OF OUR MUSIC PROGRAM

- Music offered to glorify God is central to St. Columba's. It is a foundation of spirituality for many parishioners. Music drew many to the parish, and music and the music program induced many to remain in the parish over the years. Music has been a source of inspiration, comfort, and solace to parishioners.
- For many of us, music is fundamental to our spiritual life at St. Columba's. Music is where we meet the sacred: through music, we experience the Celtic spiritual concept of "thin places," where the separation between heaven and earth grows thin, and we more clearly sense the presence of God.
- The purpose of the music program at St. Columba's is to give glory to God, and the integration of music into the liturgy has been a catalyst for transcendent worship.
- St. Columba's parishioners highly value the inclusiveness of our music and our music program. Almost all of the choirs and musical groups are open to all who want to participate. The congregation itself is considered to be a choir, and congregational singing is a central part of worship for many.
- We attach great importance to the fact that all of our choir members and regular Sunday instrumentalists are volunteers. We like knowing that the choir members are part of our parish family, not paid professionals – although a number of choristers are of professional caliber.
- We prize the quality of our music and our music program, and we aspire to be the best we can be in the context of liturgy and worship.
- We have observed and experienced that making music together is at the heart of our communal spiritual experience at St. Columba's. Congregational singing binds us together, much as sharing communion makes us "one body, because we all share one bread, one cup."
- We are accustomed to and appreciate a diverse diet of Anglican musical traditions, and we are open to exploring music from other faiths and cultures. This is consistent with a common saying at St. C's: "We don't always do what we always do."

QUALITIES WE ARE LOOKING FOR IN A MINISTER OF MUSIC

In light of what we discerned about the reasons underlying our parish's passion for our music and music program, we are seeking the following qualities in our new Minister of Music:

Proficiency: How good a musician is this person? Ideally...

- Significant experience with conducting adult and children's choirs
- Demonstrated expertise on the organ, preferably an organ similar to ours
- Experience with the Anglican tradition as well as broader Christian hymnody
- Ability to challenge musicians to grow
- Familiarity with diverse styles of music in worship
- Experience leading or participating with instrumental groups, including handbells, orchestra, brass, and other instruments
- Experienced in the training and formation of voices at all ages, including teaching sight-singing and music theory

Pastoral: How will this person live into the worship life at St. C's? Ideally ...

- Sees music as an integral part of worship and is comfortable with the idea of choral masterworks in liturgical setting
- Personally aligned with or can support the mission of St. Columba's
- Sees music as instrument of healing and growth
- Welcoming and accepting; flexible and tolerant; good communicator and listener
- Comfortable with children, youth, and adults

Participation: How will this person value the work of others? Ideally ...

- Enjoys working with volunteer music groups
- Fosters congregational singing and musical participation
- Within the music program works to recognize, inspire, motivate, elevate all musicians
- Within the staff: collaborative and collegial; able to administer, track, and delegate to volunteers; able to efficiently manage a large music program and staff; organized about rehearsals
- Within the parish: recognize and encourage the gifts of individuals and groups, and the congregation; energize recruitment and management of volunteers
- Outside the parish: community events, diocesan presence, possible public performance or even travel

Passion: How will this person inspire us? Ideally ...

- Adventurous, innovative, energetic, sense of humor
- Sets a high bar, challenges us to be better than we think we can be
- Able to grow and change
- Totally committed to music program at all ages and skill levels
- Loves what she/he does, loves to be here

We believe our music program has a tradition of quality and authenticity. We look forward to welcoming a new Minister of Music who will build on those strengths and lead us into the next chapter of our parish life.