

PART-TIME POSITION AVAILABLE
St. George's Anglican Church, Guelph
Organist & Director of Music
Job Posting

Overview of Position

Position: Organist & Director of Music
Hours: Part-time, 15 hours per week
Compensation: Based on RCCO Guidelines as negotiated, may be a staff or independent contract
Reports to: Rector and Churchwardens
Start Date: As early as 1 September 2023

The Position

The Parish of St. George's is seeking an Organist & Director of Music due to the retirement of our former Director of Music of 35 years. In addition, our parish has been in transition for the past year with the retirement of our former Rector and appointment of a new Rector in November 2022. We are currently in an interim period in order to bridge the time between both former Rector and Music Director, and new Rector and Music Director. In the meantime, the Assistant Organist and Director of Music has undertaken the position. This transitional time has provided us with an opportunity to discern our future vision of the music ministry. Now that our new Rector has been called and inducted, we are beginning an active search for a permanent Organist & Director of Music. This position would be ideal for an organist and choral conductor who is interested in a part-time working option of approximately 15 hours per week; perhaps a musician who is also involved in other musical roles such as teaching, adjudicating, performing, etc. We are looking for someone with a high quality of experience and training in church music, but who is keen to introduce a variety of new ideas to move the music ministry forward. We are also keen to have a musician who has an ability to connect with the wider Guelph arts community, creating opportunities to raise the profile of St. George's as a concert venue and centre of musical excellence.

St. George's Anglican Church and Guelph

St. George's Anglican Church is a beautiful historic limestone church situated in downtown Guelph along the banks of the Speed River. Guelph is a lovely family-oriented community located in the heart of South-western Ontario's agricultural Greenbelt. It is home to the University of Guelph, Conestoga College and several well-established manufacturers including Linamar, Johnson & Johnson, Sleeman and Hitachi, as well as many small, locally owned family businesses. Guelph is a green city with many parks, natural areas and trails.

The Parish of St. George's was established in 1832, and the present church was consecrated in 1873. The congregation has approximately 525 households made up of singles, couples, and families. Although the congregation is ageing, some new members have recently joined the parish family. St. George's is proud of its long tradition of sacred music, and provides a choral Eucharist Sunday service at 10:30am featuring the Senior Choir with Choral Scholars. The 8:30am contemplative service on Sundays, and mid-week Eucharist on Wednesdays, are both said services without music. We follow the Common Lectionary and observe the Christian Seasons through our liturgies.

The Music Ministry at St. George's

There is a great history of music at St. George's based on a respected tradition of the Anglican liturgy and worship. The music ministry is an integral part of who we are as a faith community. Members of the congregation are appreciative and supportive of the music ministry; many actively participate by singing, others are inspired listeners.

The Senior Choir of 16-18 singers (post-Covid) consists of a core of dedicated and experienced singers in SATB ranges providing solid choral leadership for the congregation. (Pre-Covid, the choir averaged 25-30 singers.) The choir includes a number of Choral Scholars who are paid from two special funds. This highly regarded program is made up of local secondary and university students.

Although there is not a dedicated children's music program at this time, part of our vision includes the active inclusion of children and youth into the service through music and/or dramatic arts on a periodic basis. Greater involvement of families is also desired to enhance the music ministry through a variety of worship opportunities. In addition, providing more diverse styles of music is being considered in order to enrich and broaden the worship experience.

Music in worship features a variety of traditional and contemporary pieces including anthems, hymns selected from the *Common Praise* Anglican hymnal and other sources, settings of sacred, secular and spiritual texts, an occasional Psalm chant, sung either *a cappella* or accompanied by organ or piano, and sometimes features guest musicians.

A highlight of the church year is the annual Festival of Lessons and Carols presented during Advent. Christmas Eve, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter services feature special music that complements the liturgies. The full choir sings services from September to the end of May, and during the summer smaller quartets, trios, duets and soloists provide music leadership on a more casual basis.

Baptisms, weddings, funerals, and memorial services are important milestones in the lives of our parishioners and music is a key part of those services, providing both celebration and comfort to the families involved. Occasionally the choir is requested to sing at some of these services, if available. In addition, soloists from the Choral Scholar program can be hired to provide musical interludes if desired.

St. George's is fortunate to have a wonderfully maintained and updated 1926 Casavant organ with 4 manuals, over 3000 pipes, 60 ranks, 57 stops plus MIDI. It features a substantial antiphonal division at the back of the church. The organ prelude and postlude are very much appreciated by those who worship at the 10:30 service. Recent cleaning and renovations in 2016 have made this organ one of the most noteworthy instruments in South-western Ontario. Organists from across Canada and around the world have enjoyed playing our organ.

A very unique aspect of St. George's is the carillon, one of only 9 working carillons in Canada. Played and maintained by our resident carillonneur, it features 36 bells in 3 octaves. It is the responsibility of the Director of Music to oversee the carillon, including granting permission to guest carillonneurs who are keen to play it.

The acoustics in the spacious nave and chancel provide a clear, bright tone, with resonant overtones. As a result, St. George's is often the preferred location for local choirs, music festivals, concerts and recitals. There is a sound system with microphones, as well as audio-visual equipment for recording events and services. Prior to Covid, a very successful concert series was curated three times a year. These Guelph Connections Concerts offered 5 or 6 free late afternoon concerts per session, open to the community. They featured high calibre, professional musicians from the S-W Ontario area, but also from further afield. We are exploring the re-introduction of this series, or a similar series in a different iteration, with input from the Director of Music and those who were previously involved.

Musical Resources

- 4-manual Casavant Opus 1133 60 ranks; 57 stops plus MIDI (<https://www.saintgeorge.ca/the-organ>)
- Yamaha G3 Grand Piano
- Roland Electronic Piano
- 2-manual Rodgers electronic organ (Chapel)
- Music library contains about 1200 scores, including some oratorios and many archived anthems no longer in use
- St. George's Cutten Memorial Carillon, 36 bells in 3-octaves under the supervision of the resident Carillonneur (<https://www.saintgeorge.ca/the-carillon>)

The Importance of the Position of Organist & Director of Music

The Organist & Director of Music is defined by the following key functions:

- Provide oversight of the music ministry, service music, and choir, in collaboration with the Assistant Director of Music and Rector;
- Provide managerial oversight to musical instruments including the organ, pianos, and carillon;
- Manage the purchase and care of all necessary music supplies;
- Recruit and audition choristers, including Choral Scholars, and arrange for guest musicians;
- Oversee any special/major services, musical events or concerts that require more planning and organization.

For a detailed job description of the position, please visit the website <http://www.saintgeorge.ca/job-postings>

Specific Qualifications

- Minimum of a Bachelor's Degree of Music or Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO) Colleague diploma
- Membership in the RCCO is preferred (membership cost is covered by the church to encourage participation and educational benefits)
- Experience playing a 3- or 4-manual Casavant pipe organ
- Proficiency in playing various styles of music on the organ and piano, ability to improvise, and a broad range of musical talent and knowledge
- Experience in conducting choral music
- Familiarity and comfort with Anglican musical tradition, liturgy and practices
- Leadership, teaching, communication and collaborative skills are necessary
- Ability to incorporate music in on-line worship
- Excellent interpersonal skills are required as well as a demonstrated ability to work in an open, honest and appreciable manner in a church environment

Application Process

Interested candidates should submit a detailed curriculum vitae and one-page covering letter outlining how your interest and experience align with the position. Please include a list with a variety of repertoire performed, as well as names and contact information of one personal and two professional references. Send applications to musiccommittee@saintgeorge.ca with 'Organist & Director of Music Application' in the subject line. The closing date of applications is Friday June 30, 2023.

Receipt of all applications will be acknowledged promptly, and successful candidates will be invited to an audition and interview to be held in July or August 2023.