

Position to be filled: Organist & Director of Music

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Marblehead, is seeking a collaborative, creative musician to serve as our next Organist & Director of Music to begin summer 2025. This half-time position will be filled by a person who is committed to enriching the spiritual life of parishioners through music.

Founded in 1714, St. Michael's Church is one of the oldest Episcopal churches in New England, and our congregation still worships in the original building. We take great pride in our rich heritage; our sanctuary walls are infused with three centuries of prayer.

We have just celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our organ, a two-manual tracker-action instrument of 29 ranks, built in 1974 by The C.B. Fisk Company of Gloucester, MA and housed in an E. & G.G. Hook case dating from 1830. The sanctuary, with its double-vaulted ceiling, is a superb acoustical space for organ and choral music.

The choir sings at the 10:00 am Mass from Michaelmas (September) through Trinity Sunday (usually in early June), as well as most major holy days—including the Holy Week Triduum. The choir's repertoire encompasses such diverse music as plainchant, Renaissance polyphony, nineteenth century choral works, and the great heritage of Anglican cathedral music. The choir also sings at a monthly Evensong from October – May.

Director of Music Position Description: 20 Hours/Week:

- Choosing the hymns, service music, choir anthems, and organ voluntaries that are appropriate for the liturgical Church Year. Services include 10:00 am Rite II, monthly Evensong on the first Sunday of the month October – May, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week.
- Working with the Parish Administrator to include the liturgical music in the weekly service bulletin.
- Arranging and scheduling maintenance and repairs for the piano and organ.
- Playing the organ for weekly Sunday morning services year-round.
- Directing the choir from early September to early June (rehearsals are currently on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:00 pm from early September to early June and on Sunday mornings from 9:00 am to 9:45 am).
- Accompanying and directing Choral Evensong from October to May (Lessons and Carols in December) on the first Sunday of each month at 5:00 pm, with a rehearsal beforehand.
- Overseeing paid section leaders (currently two) and submitting their hours/payment to accountant on a bi-weekly basis.
- Participating in weekly staff meetings, if desired by the rector.
- Keeping music library organized and making additions as allowed by the budget.
- Writing an annual report of the music program in advance of the annual meeting (January).
- Hiring additional instrumentalists for special occasions (i.e., trumpet, violin).
- Planning and making all arrangements for Organ Concert Series from October through May.

#### Qualifications and Experience:

- Four-year degree in organ performance or commensurate degree.
- Minimum of two years of experience conducting a choir in a church setting.
- Is knowledgeable and respectful of the liturgy and worship of the Episcopal Church.
- Liturgical sensitivity and the ability to read clergy and congregation and respond appropriately.

#### Compensation:

- Competitive salary commensurate with experience.
- Retirement contribution per diocesan standards.
- Four weeks paid vacation.
- Right of first refusal for weddings and funerals, which are compensated separately.

#### Application Process:

Applicants are asked to submit the following by email to [office@stmichaels1714.org](mailto:office@stmichaels1714.org) for consideration. Applications will be accepted through May 15<sup>th</sup>, or until the position is filled.

- Introductory cover letter summarizing your philosophy of music as an element of worship.
- Resumé.
- Three references including phone and email.
- Link to or recording of a service, performance, or rehearsal.

The music search committee will be reviewing applications on a rolling basis and will keep all applicants informed during the process. We thank you for your interest in St. Michael's, Marblehead.

St. Michael's is an Equal Opportunity Employer. A thorough background check will be conducted.