



THE CHURCH OF THE
Epiphany
NEW YORK CITY

October 9, 2023

Job Posting: Director of Music
Full-time position, competitive salary, with full benefits

The Church of the Epiphany in New York City's Upper East Side seeks a deeply faithful, collaborative, and joyful organist and choral director to serve as full-time Director of Music beginning in January 2024. This person would oversee music at all worship requiring it—presently one Sunday morning service with a desire to create a separate Sunday evening experience—create a children's choir that performs on occasion, offer brief lessons to the children in our day school, create a seniors' choir through our Carter Burden Network partnership, and relaunch the parish's community arts ministry. In all things, they would ground their work in love and work alongside the rector in growing a venerable New York City parish.

Who is Epiphany?

The Church of the Epiphany is embarking on a remarkable new chapter. Late last year the congregation relocated to a new church facility, purchasing the historic Jan Hus Presbyterian Church and rebuilding it from the inside out. Today the property is nearly 32,000 square feet of state-of-the-art gathering and worship space, with newly built choir and robing rooms. Our sanctuary is both grand and intimate, with high ceilings but seating only 160, creating a more personal worship experience.

Beginning next year Epiphany will also welcome Bigelow Organ's Opus 44, a three-manual tracker organ of 37 voices. The parish is contracted with an organ-building consultant, the current interim music director, but the new music director would participate in its installation, providing direction where necessary.



Epiphany prides itself on a historic and robust professional music program. Its choir of approximately 15 members is comprised of both paid and volunteer voices. The congregation sings a considerable portion of the liturgy and values high-caliber anthems and organ performance—but it does so with tremendous grace, creating a worship experience that is both professional and warmly welcoming. We channel our Anglican roots by holding seemingly two conflicting things together: high worship professionalism and informal worship participation. Don't be surprised if the occasional parish dog sings along.

The Director of Music will serve on a large and growing church staff, reporting directly to the Rector.

Who do we seek?

The Church of the Epiphany is seeking an organist and choral director with the following attributes:

- *Faithfulness.* The incumbent will take their inspiration from Holy Scripture and the traditions of the church. They'll know their worship offerings are holy, given to the Glory of God, and with the intention of drawing others to God's love.
- *Skill.* Epiphany has been blessed with tremendously talented music directors, and as such, the parish and choir expect high competency in organ performance and choral conducting, and deep liturgical understanding.
- *Collaborative Spirit.* With many different ministries underway at Epiphany, the incumbent should seek to work alongside the staff and volunteers of the parish, valuing the contributions of others, and seeing their own contributions as crucial to the building up of God's kingdom. The ideal candidate would be comfortable with both complex choral anthems and in leading small children in familiar songs.
- *A Builder's Work Ethic.* With a new church facility, new organ, new rector, new bishop and new director of music, Epiphany seeks to capture fresh momentum and grow in size and scope of ministry. We



will need someone who is able to create the kinds of programs they seek to lead, draw others into the work, and manage logistical considerations with skill and grace.

- *Kindness.* We are focusing our new season on our baptismal vows which commit us to seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves. We know that any work done at Epiphany without love will not bear fruit.

Further attributions we would value include:

- *Ability to navigate both traditional and contemporary music genres.* Our church relishes good music, and we know that can take many forms. We would be excited to hear a Herbert Howells offertory anthem with organ paired with a spiritual or contemporary communion anthem on guitar or piano. We know the world of sacred music is broad and we hope to experience more of it.
- *Improvisation.* We hope for a director of music who helps our worship come alive, who can interpret hymns with joy and compassion, and who can quickly create improvisations as needed, be they fast interludes or more thought-out organ postludes. Similarly, we would love a hymn on piano played with soulful improvisation.
- *Familiarity with New York City's music community.* Our director of music will need to be able to recruit and maintain a cadre of professional singers, drawing in additional voices for special services. As we seek to regrow our Epiphany Arts program, we imagine a successful incumbent would know which music offerings to recruit and how best to advertise for them.

How does one apply?

Applicants should provide a cover letter of one or two pages, a CV, and links to samples of organ playing (including hymn accompaniment), choral conducting, and if possible, improvisation. Confidential references will be solicited later in the search process. All application documents should be in .pdf format. To ensure full consideration, materials must be sent by Nov. 1, 2023, to daytonwelch@epiphanynyc.org.

