



Director of Music

General Description

The Director of Music leads the music ministry of the church, collaborates in the planning and implementation of worship that inspires the congregation, and tends to other duties as described below. The position of Director of Music is defined by this document as a part-time position (approximately 15 to 20 hours per week) based at the church, reporting to the Senior Pastor. Flexibility with respect to time and location are at the discretion of the Senior Pastor. The competitive salary will be commensurate with experience and education.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Conduct the Chancel Choir, which includes 8 paid section leaders and approximately 8-10 volunteer musicians, in weekly rehearsal, worship, special services, and programs.
- Choose appropriate anthems and musical works for the Chancel Choir, adapting music for different events and seasons.
- Collaborate with the Senior Pastor, Organist, and Worship Support Team to plan and lead weekly and seasonal worship gatherings (e.g.: Christmas and Easter).
- Collaborate with staff to prepare a weekly worship guide and coordinate or create the production of worship guide materials that support congregational singing (e.g.: music graphics).
- Coordinate music and musicians for funerals and weddings (approximately 3-5 annually).
- Schedule soloists, instrumentalists, and other accompaniment as needed for weekly worship, special services, and programs.
- Recruit, audition, and supervise 8 paid section leaders in the Chancel Choir.
- Supervise part-time organist.
- Prepare, recommend, and oversee the music ministry operating budget, as well as special purpose funds set aside to support music and worship.
- Maintain the choral music library.
- Oversee the care and maintenance of the church's musical instruments, including the 118-rank Austin organ and the Steinway Model D concert grand piano in the sanctuary.
- Participate in regular meetings with the Senior Pastor and/or church staff, as time and schedule permit.
- Enlist substitute when unavailable.
- Demonstrate professionalism, care, and concern for all members of the congregation and Chancel Choir inside and outside of rehearsal.
- Other duties as assigned.

Essential Job Functions:

- Excellent musical, leadership, organizational, and communication skills
- Works independently or with others with minimum of direct supervision
- Develops and maintains good interpersonal relationship with others both within and outside the Church

Minimum Position Requirements:

- Masters Degree in Music or equivalent
- Demonstrable knowledge, skill, and experience in church music and worship leadership
- Demonstrable knowledge, skill, and experience in choral conducting
- Demonstrable knowledge, skill, and experience in the voice and vocal techniques
- Demonstrable proficiency in piano
- Demonstrable knowledge, skill, and experience as a user of contemporary information and communication technologies including telephone, internet, e-mail, word processing, spreadsheets, and databases as they are implemented at the church

Application Process

Please submit a digital application to the Director of Music Search Team at musicdirector@firstbaptistdc.org. The application should include one PDF file that includes a cover letter, resumé, and links to performances and/or rehearsals that demonstrate musical skills. Review of applications will begin immediately by a search team, and continue until the position is filled.

Worship at First Baptist

Worship at First Baptist Church is atypical for Baptists. The liturgy is formal, yet warm and vibrant. It follows a four-fold pattern guided by the Christian year and Lectionary. The musical practices draw from the rich traditions of sacred music as well as more recent contributions in hymnody and choral music. The Director of Music conducts the Chancel Choir and when necessary, provides leadership to encourage congregational singing. The church has one worship service on Sunday mornings at 11:00 am that lasts approximately sixty minutes.

The Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir is the adult choir at First Baptist Church. The choir rehearses prior to worship on Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 10:40 am. It consists of approximately 18 singers, 8 of whom are paid professional musicians. With excellence undergirding their work, the choir sings a wide range of repertoire from Gregorian chant to modern choral composers. For the past sixty-five years, the Chancel Choir has presented Candlelight Carols at Christmas. It also provides music for Holy Week services including a Good Friday Tenebrae.

The Austin Organ

The Austin Organ was constructed in 2012 and installed and dedicated in 2013. With five manuals and 118 ranks of more than 6,000 pipes, the First Baptist organ is among the largest in Washington, D.C.

When the instrument was constructed and installed, the console was only the second five-manual console in D.C., and the third five-manual drawknob console Austin Organs had built in 120 years. The Chancel Organ boasts 83 ranks, and the Gallery Organ in the balcony has 35 ranks. Mounted horizontally on the gallery rail, low in the sanctuary, is a set of trumpets that have become an architectural symbol for First Baptist.

Since its inception, Opus 2795 was designed with a primary purpose: to lead this congregation in public Christian worship. This instrument has also proven to be a magnificent concert organ hosting a range of distinguished artists for the benefit of the church and the community.

The Steinway Model D Concert Grand Piano

In 2007, through the generosity of several individuals and families, the congregation purchased a hand-crafted Steinway Model D concert grand piano. It is signed by the late Henry Ziegler Steinway, the great-grandson of the founder of Steinway & Sons, and resides in our sanctuary.

A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation

First Baptist welcomes all people into the life of this church. We are grateful to God for the diversity in our congregation of ethnicity, race, citizenship, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical and mental ability, faith background, economic status, political persuasion, education and life experience.