

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

### Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival

**Title:** Associate Cantor

**Classification:** Independent Contractor

**Department:** Staff

**Reports to:** Cantor

**Hours:** Residence at Valparaiso University from Thursday, June 22, 2023 through Sunday, July 23, 2023

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#### Position Overview

The Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival (LSM), the nation's premier faith-based music academy for high school students, invites applications for the position of associate cantor at the 2023 summer academy and festival to be held from June 25 to July 23 on the campus of Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana.

The associate cantor serves as an integral member of the worship staff alongside the chaplain, cantor, sacristan, and organ fellow. Together, the staff is responsible for planning and leadership of more than 50 liturgies during the four-week program including Sunday eucharists, weekday morning and evening prayer, and a festival of hymns. As a member of the faculty, the associate cantor also may teach electives and lessons in areas aligned with their expertise such as musicianship, church music, keyboard, voice, or history.

An accomplished leader of assembly song, the associate cantor's specific responsibilities are shaped by a combination of the incumbent's gifts and abilities, program enrollment, and ways in which these abilities and interests both compliment and contrast with those of worship staff colleagues. Essential responsibilities include participation in daily worship staff meetings, ability to thrive and adapt in a fast-paced and rigorous learning environment, and a spirit of enthusiasm and collegiality. Although there is a longstanding association between Lutheran cantors and keyboard proficiencies, keyboard skills are not requisite for this role. In addition to keyboardists, skilled leaders of assembly song as singers, guitarists, percussionists, or other mediums are encouraged to apply.

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#### Responsibilities

Specific tasks that may be assigned to the associate cantor based on the incumbent's proficiencies and interests include:

- Coordinate preludes for evening prayer (Abendmusik) and Sunday mornings (Morgenmusik)
- Lead assembly song as a vocalist, instrumentalist, or keyboardist
- Coach student musicians who participate in worship
- Teach private lessons in area of expertise, if appropriate
- Compose or arrange descants, psalmody, acclamations, and other pieces as needed or desired
- Direct a volunteer chapel choir or auditioned schola
- Attend and engage in community life at LSM, as appropriate
- Support LSM through advocacy and recruitment, as appropriate
- Teach portions of the church music and introduction to pipe organ electives
- Mentor students who exhibit interest in church music
- Assist in worship space planning and preparation
- Serve as accompanist for a volunteer chapel choir or auditioned schola

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#### Qualifications

This position is ideal for early-career professionals or advanced graduate students in sacred music programs who are embarking on vocations oriented around assembly song. Desired or preferred qualifications include:

- Master's degree in music or related field
- Performance and liturgical experience
- Some familiarity with Lutheran worship resources
- Teaching experience, preferably at the high school and/or college level
- Organized with excellent time management skills and ability to problem-solve quickly
- Willing and able to teach private lessons, pedagogy, literature, and instill an appreciation and understanding of music

- Model tolerance to the variety of faith backgrounds and worship traditions at LSM
- Understanding of and commitment to, the mission of the organization
- Ability to lift and/or carry displays and materials up to 25 pounds

### **Compensation/Benefits**

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Independent contractor receives \$500 stipend at the conclusion of LSM. A private room (faculty apartment) and board at Valparaiso University are also provided, if applicable. The incumbent is responsible for her or his own transportation to and from Valparaiso.

### **Apply**

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To apply, please send a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and names of at least two references to Thomas Bandar, Executive and Artistic Director, [tbandar@lutheransummermusic.org](mailto:tbandar@lutheransummermusic.org). The letter of interest should briefly outline the applicant's training and experience as a church musician, the above possibilities, as well as future career aspirations. Though its worship life is centered around Lutheran liturgical practices and musical expressions, LSM welcomes students, faculty, and staff from all faiths and denominational backgrounds.