

Position Description: Minister of Music (part time)
Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Gaithersburg, MD

A progressive, diverse, multicultural, bilingual (English/Spanish), welcoming and affirming parish is seeking a part-time Minister of Music. A degree in church music or a related field is preferred, but formal training and experience in playing organ and piano and in directing a choir is required.

Our worship style is traditional but relaxed, and the congregation sings with enthusiasm. The music program is ambitious but not narrowly focused. We have both a Casavant Frères pipe organ (21 ranks, Opus 3801, built 2001) and a Baldwin grand piano in the chancel. The choir has 14 highly dedicated members, all volunteers. The parish is more than 125 years old and has an extensive library of printed music, including octavos in various styles, collections of anthems, and major works.

We have separate weekly English and Spanish sung services. While the Minister of Music's primary responsibility is for the weekly English language service, the parish has bilingual services approximately ten times each year. Therefore, the Minister of Music will lead hymns and service music in Spanish from time to time.

Responsibilities include:

- Play organ (and piano) and direct the choir at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Eucharist, including prelude and postlude.
- Select music for the 10:00 am Sunday Eucharist.
- Lead weekly choir rehearsals (90 minutes) from September to early June.
- Play organ (and piano) and direct the choir for additional weekday services, mostly bilingual:
 - Ash Wednesday
 - Maundy Thursday
 - The Great Vigil of Easter
 - Thanksgiving Day
 - Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
 - Epiphany Pageant
- Collaborate with the Rector and the Spanish language service's music director on occasional bilingual services.
- Participate in regular meetings with Rector and staff to plan services.
- Purchase printed music and other supplies.
- Hire and provide direction to other instrumentalists as needed for special services.
- Report to the Rector on the condition of the organ and pianos, and the need for maintenance.
- Provide music for weddings or funerals held in the church if organ or piano music is requested. (Additional remuneration provided for these services.)

The parish provides a budget for purchasing music, maintaining the instruments, and hiring musicians for special occasions. The parish also provides paid sick leave and vacation leave.

Send résumé to ocampo@ascensionmd.org