



Church Organist

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Columbus, GA

StThomasColumbus.org

St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Columbus, GA is seeking an experienced **Organist** to provide music and musical accompaniment for regular Sunday services and other services that are part of the church's liturgical year, including Easter, Advent, and Christmas.

St. Thomas Church appreciates and values Anglican music as well as music from other sacred traditions. The congregation supports a 35 to 40 voice choir including 8 to 10 staff singers. The nave is currently under renovation to make the choir area and altar fully handicapped accessible. The new choir area will have space for up to 60 singers. The nave organ is being renovated as part of this project, with new digital components and updated three manual console to be located in the new choir area to support an antiphonal pipe and digital organ. The Boston grand piano for the nave was purchased in 2018.

Responsibilities for Organist:

- 15-20 hours weekly depending on the season
- Provide organ/piano accompaniment for Sunday service(s) and for Wednesday evening rehearsals
- Rehearse and prepare organ solos for Sunday worship
- Collaborate as organist/pianist with other musicians, vocalists, or director as needed
- Provide music for occasional evening or special services throughout the year, including but not limited to Advent/Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve services, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday and other church services/events as requested
- Be available to play for weddings and funerals, for an additional fee, or coordinate with other musicians

Qualifications and Skills for Organist:

- Proficient in playing the pipe organ and piano with a strong musical background
- Experience with musical leadership for liturgical worship
- Ability to sight read and play hymns
- Ability to accompany choral and solo singing on organ or piano
- Ability to improvise musical extensions and transitions in the worship service
- Ability to work well with others and under the direction of others
- Episcopal Church Safeguarding God's Children, Safeguarding God's People, and Dismantling Racism training required within a few months of hire
- Preferred: ability to direct choir on occasion if Director of Music is not available

Instruments:

- Cornell Zimmer Opus 98 (2016) three manual Pipe Organ <http://www.zimmerorgans.com/portfolio-items/opus-98-st-thomas-episcopal-church-columbus-ga/>
Digital expansion and console renovation in progress 2024
- Boston grand piano, purchased 2018
- Handbells, used occasionally for choral accompaniment
- Additional information regarding the church's musical instruments available upon request

Salary and Benefits:

- Starting salary market competitive
- Retirement contribution through the Episcopal Church retirement plans for lay employees
- Up to eight rehearsals/services paid leave, not to exceed six Sundays annually
- Ability to teach piano/organ at church
- Short-term disability insurance included
- Maternity, paternity, and foster care leave available

Physical and technical requirements:

- Ability to play all manuals, including pedals; ability to sit throughout a rehearsal and worship service; ability to hear fine distinctions in sound; ability to use a computer, particularly Google products and RiteSong (Episcopal Church music archive)

To Apply:

Please send the following by mail or email to Director of Parish Administration, Patty Slembariski, at patty@stthomascolumbus.org or 2100 Hilton Ave., Columbus, GA 31906 by **October 7:**

- Resume or profile and letter of interest
- Names of three references who may be contacted
- Recent performance recording(s) or links to recordings
- Background check will be required prior to hiring

St. Thomas Episcopal Church of Columbus, GA seeks to *Love God, Love Every Person, Learn and Serve Together*. We are a community of loving, committed and searching Christians who value diversity and cherish the gifts of young and old alike. We welcome ALL God's children into our sacramental community, respecting the dignity of every person as we are called to a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. Average Sunday Attendance increased by 65% from 2013 to 2023 and has continued to increase during the renovation project. St. Thomas does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. Candidates from Episcopal and ecumenical backgrounds are welcome to apply.



Nave Exterior



Future Nave Interior