



*The Cathedral Church of St. James*

65 CHURCH STREET  
TORONTO, ONTARIO M5C 2E9

TEL: 416-364-7865

Email: [music@stjamescathedral.ca](mailto:music@stjamescathedral.ca)

Website: [www.stjamescathedral.ca](http://www.stjamescathedral.ca)

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## **Organist: Job Description**

St. James Cathedral, Toronto, is seeking to appoint an organist in February 2019. This part-time position works closely with the Director of Music in providing leadership for a diverse Anglican music ministry at the heart of Canada's largest city. Remuneration is calculated according to RCCO guidelines at around 16-19 hours per week. The potential start date is negotiable.

### **Duties**

The primary role of the organist is to provide accompaniment to Cathedral liturgies, which are mostly held on Sundays. The playing of preludes and postludes, hymns, choral accompaniments and other service music falls under the organist's responsibility.

To that end, the organist is expected to attend and accompany choir rehearsals on Thursday evenings. There are currently two liturgical choirs at St. James, the professional 18-voice Cathedral Choir (which sings both at an 11:00am Eucharist on a Sunday and at a 4:30pm Choral Evensong), and the volunteer Parish Choir (which sings at the 9:00am Eucharist with four paid leads).

There are many additional 'internal' liturgies throughout the year which do not fall on Sundays which the organist is also expected to accompany within their role as organist. These include seasonal services through Holy Week, carol services, Christmas pageants, blessings of animals, ecumenical services and education events.

There are many additional 'external' liturgies throughout the year which do not fall on Sundays which the organist is entitled to first refusal. These include diocesan events, civic events, state funerals and festive services to which the organist is entitled an extra fee.

The organist is responsible for organising musical accompaniment for Cathedral funerals and weddings, receiving an extra fee per service.

The organist is responsible for helping train an organ scholar and to participate in their annual selection with the Director of Music.

The organist is responsible for overseeing and booking artists for our Tuesday lunchtime recital series and Twilight recitals.

Conducting the Cathedral's choirs when the Director of Music is unable to do so, due to vacation or sickness, is also required.

While the organist meets regularly with the Director of Music, attendance at a full staff meeting with clergy and lay-leaders is expected once per month.

## Desirable Qualities

Successful applicants will ideally possess many of the following attributes:

- Familiarity with Anglican liturgy, such as Choral Evensong and Eucharist
- Experience in playing large 'Romantic-style' organs
- A wide and appropriate recital and liturgical repertory knowledge
- Familiarity with Anglican psalms, plainsong and hymnody
- Excellent administration skills, including computer literacy
- Excellent communication skills
- Flexibility, resourcefulness and adept at problem solving
- Good inter-personal skills and a dignified collaborative attitude
- A striving disposition and willingness to improve
- Respect and reverence for expressions of worship from all major faiths
- Competent leadership skills with experience in conflict resolution
- Experience in working with children and ability to do so
- Conducting experience
- Excellent sight-reading, preparation and improvisation skills
- Very high level of proficiency in performance
- Availability to work at Christmas and Easter and to take 5 weeks paid vacation with due consideration of crucial liturgical dates (such as our Patronal Festival in July, Advent Procession, Remembrance Day etc.)

## The Organ

The full specification of the organ can be found by following this link:

[https://stjamescathedral.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/St\\_James\\_Cathedral\\_OrganSpecs.pdf](https://stjamescathedral.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/St_James_Cathedral_OrganSpecs.pdf)

A capital campaign to rebuild and restore the existing organ has been identified as a growing necessity since 2011. As we appoint a new Dean during the coming year, it is highly likely that the organist will play an important role in a discernment process and fundraising concerts in the coming years, though a new bespoke specification has already been designed. Educating the public through stewardship and maintenance of this uniquely historic instrument is of great importance to the Cathedral's future.

## Next Steps

Interested applicants should send a cover letter and CV to Cathedral Director of Music, Robert Busiakiewicz, at [music@stjamescathedral.ca](mailto:music@stjamescathedral.ca). Please include contact details for two references, one of whom should be a member of clergy, the other a professional musician. Deadline for applications is **Thursday, January 31, 2019**. Calls for interviews and auditions will follow shortly after that date.