



PRINCIPAL ORGANIST AND MUSIC MINISTRY ASSOCIATE

River Road Church is seeking a part-time Principal Organist.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest, résumé with references, and links to representative video samples of both solo and service playing to Dr. Richard W. Robbins at organistsearch@rrcb.org.

Job Summary:

The Organist serves as the principal keyboard musician and a key artistic and liturgical partner in the worship life of the church. As the primary organist, this person shapes the congregation's musical experience through hymn leadership, service playing, organ voluntaries, and solo repertoire, bringing both technical excellence and musical imagination to the role. The Organist collaborates closely with the Minister of Music and Chancel Choir, with meaningful responsibility for the selection and preparation of organ literature and artistic input in worship planning. The Organist also serves as a resource for weddings and funerals and contributes to the broader musical and liturgical life of the congregation.

This part-time position is estimated at 12-15 hours per week, inclusive of one Sunday service, one Wednesday rehearsal during the choir season, occasional services and concerts, and practice/administration as needed. Annual salary is \$35,000, commensurate with experience and qualifications, with four weeks paid vacation. The Organist receives additional compensation for weddings and funeral services and is granted the right of first refusal.

Position Context:

River Road Church maintains a well-established and highly regarded music program with a strong congregational and community presence, where music is central to the church's mission and worship life. The program is supported by engaged pastoral leadership, collaborative and experienced musicians, and resources that allow for thoughtful planning, artistic continuity, and a consistently high standard of musical excellence. River Road Church was founded with a strong dedication to ecumenism, and we are proud to be a welcoming and affirming congregation.

The Chancel Choir is a highly skilled ensemble with a longstanding reputation for excellence, performing a broad range of repertoire from weekly liturgical leadership to major masterworks with orchestra. The choir is especially known for its strong tradition of Anglican and historical choral literature, presented with both musical and liturgical integrity. In addition to its central

+ thoughtful faith +

role in worship, the choir has undertaken international residencies, performed in significant sacred spaces abroad, and has sung in residence at Washington National Cathedral.

The church's music ministry is further strengthened by a vibrant concert life and a sanctuary that regularly welcomes distinguished guest artists of national and international stature. The acoustics and architecture of the space make it one of Richmond's notable performance venues for sacred and concert repertoire alike.

The primary instrument is a four-manual M.P. Möller pipe organ (Opus 10590), extensively restored and expanded in 2017, with a movable console and a broad tonal design well suited for both liturgical leadership and substantial concert repertoire. Full stoplist available here: [\[link\]](#). In addition to the primary sanctuary instrument, the church houses five grand pianos and a second Möller organ in the chapel, providing exceptional resources.

Primary Duties

- Play the Sanctuary organ for one Sunday morning worship service each week, including voluntaries, hymn leadership, choral anthems, and solo repertoire.
- Provide music for additional services associated with major feasts and seasons, including Christmas, Holy Week, and other principal liturgies, and for seasonal concerts as scheduled.
- Provide organ and/or piano music for weddings and funerals held in the Sanctuary and Chapel, as available and in accordance with church policy. The Organist receives additional compensation for these services and is granted the right of first refusal.
- Accompany the Chancel Choir at weekly Wednesday evening rehearsals and in worship services.
- Accompany occasional ensembles and soloists during worship as required by the liturgy.
- Provide introductions, interludes, transitions, improvisations, and other musical support as needed for the flow of worship.
- Collaborate closely and participate in regular planning conversations with the Minister of Music in worship planning, taking primary responsibility for the selection, preparation, and performance of organ voluntaries and solo literature.
- Offer thoughtful artistic input regarding the musical shape and flow of the liturgy.
- Monitor the condition of the organ and pianos, reporting maintenance needs and coordinating service as appropriate.
- Provide accurate music-related information for weekly worship bulletins and special liturgies, including organ voluntaries, instrumental selections, composers, dates, and other relevant details as requested.
- Arrange for substitutes during times of absence, in coordination with the Minister of Music.

Qualifications

- Strong organ and keyboard proficiency, including confident hymn leadership and experience accompanying choirs in a church, academic, or comparable ensemble setting.
- Demonstrated experience with pipe organs, including electro-pneumatic action, and familiarity with instrument registration.
- Demonstrated ability to sight-read basic hymnody and simple accompaniments, while preparing more advanced repertoire (both solo and accompaniment) thoughtfully and to a high standard.
- Able to improvise and thoughtfully shape introductions, interludes, and transitions in support of the liturgy and liturgical action.
- A degree in organ performance, sacred music, or a related field, or equivalent professional experience.
- An advanced degree, such as a Master of Music, Doctor of Musical Arts, Artist Diploma, or equivalent, is preferred. AGO certification, including AAGO or FAGO, is also welcomed.
- Working knowledge of the Church Year and the ability to select appropriate repertoire for liturgical contexts.
- Evident passion for sacred music and its role in worship, expressed through thoughtful preparation, musical curiosity, and a desire to contribute meaningfully to the congregation's shared song.
- Commitment to collaborative, servant-minded ministry in a congregational worship context, with a demonstrated ability to work effectively and positively within a ministry team.
- Strong organizational and communication skills.
- Proficiency with email and standard office software for communication, scheduling, document preparation, and ministry coordination.
- Ability to maintain positive professional relationships with musicians, musical organizations in Richmond, and the broader community.
- Alignment with the mission and values of River Road Church.