

Choral Scholar Job Description

April 2018

The Choral Scholar is a funded position given to a degree-seeking undergraduate or graduate student in the school of music at University of Minnesota or Augsburg University. The responsibilities of the Choral Scholar are as follows:

- Attend all Hope Choir rehearsals
- Practice and prepare music for rehearsal each week
- Sing as a member of Hope Choir and Drop-In Choir at 10:30 Sunday liturgy and other services as negotiated
- Lead sectionals and choral warm-ups as needed
- Offer vocal solos in worship when the choir has a Sunday off
- Participate in congregational and ensemble fellowship opportunities as able
- Thoughtfully invite/recruit other students to sing in the choir or attend worship

Hope Choir

30 member adult choir with strong musical capacity, good sight-reading skills, and a long history of strong musical leadership including Dale Warland, Larry Fleming and William Beckstrand. Music sung ranges in style from plainchant to the best of modern choral music. Hope Choir usually sings thrice monthly at the Sunday 10:30am liturgy Labor Day through Memorial Day and presents a special program during the fall. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm, sometimes extending to 9pm. There is a Saturday rehearsal retreat in September.

Drop-In Choir

This usually once-monthly opportunity is a congregation-wide invitational group. The group is comprised of whoever attends the 9:30 rehearsal before the 10:30 service on Drop-In Choir days. Music is usually learnable by ear.

Solo singing and cantor responsibilities

Occasional choral programming may afford the Choral Scholar opportunities for solo singing. If the Choral Scholar is preparing sacred solo repertoire or other repertoire suitable for worship, they may be able to perform such works before the service as prelude, or during the service at an appropriate time. The Choral Scholar may be asked to lead psalms or other congregational music as needed. Lastly, the choral scholar receives the first right of refusal for funerals and weddings in the parish for which a vocal soloist is requested.

Thoughtful Participation

It is the goal of our congregation to connect more tangibly with the student population that surrounds our church building. The Choral Scholar will, as their schedule allows, attend fellowship opportunities at Hope (i.e. Fellowship Hour after worship) that help them connect with the congregation at large. The Choral Scholar will also thoughtfully consider ways they can invite their student network's participation in our music and worship activities at Hope.

Qualifications

1. Interested and available to be a visible member of our intergenerational Lutheran community
2. Strong and pleasing solo voice
3. High level of musicianship and skill
4. Great communication skills
5. Dependable leadership skills

Other Notes

The Choral Scholar works with and reports directly to the Minister for Worship and Music. The Choral Scholar's schedule will be negotiated with the Minister for Worship and Music. Time is definitely allowed for school breaks and holidays. The choir schedule does fluctuate throughout the year, and there may be days and seasons requiring extra time commitment. These will be offset by periods of reduced time commitments.

Audition interviews for this position take place the first week in September. The position is held September through May and may be renewed for successive years if both the Choral Scholar and the Minister for Worship and Music mutually agree.

Compensation

This position pays \$50 per call, usually totaling \$200 every two weeks, according to the parish's bi-weekly payroll cycle.

Application

To apply for this position, please forward information regarding your musical background and experience. Information and/or questions about the position may be forwarded to:

Zach Busch, MSM
Minister of Worship and Music
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