

CHRIST MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ACCOMPANIST/CHURCH PIANIST
JOB DESCRIPTION
Approved April 3, 2023

General Job Description

The Accompanist/Church Pianist plays an important role in the musical life of CMPC. The Accompanist/Church Pianist provides piano music and accompaniment for weekly worship services and other activities in support of the music ministry of the church.

Specifically, the Accompanist/Church Pianist accompanies the Trinity Choir, small ensembles, and soloists, serves as second keyboard player for weekly worship services, plays keyboard with the CMPC Band, and assists the Music Director with other musical and administrative tasks as required. Excellent piano skills and experience in choral accompanying are essential for this position. The Accompanist/Church Pianist is a strong team player, working closely with the Music Director, Pastor, church musicians, and volunteers.

Job Classification and Supervision

The Accompanist/Church Pianist reports to the Pastor. Terms and conditions of employment for this and all paid staff positions are set by the Personnel Committee of the Session.

This is a year-round, part-time, salaried position. The position requires approximately 12-15 hours per week from September through June and 7-10 hours per week during the summer. In-person attendance is required for weekly Sunday worship services, Thursday evening choir rehearsals (from September through June), Wednesday evening LOGOS musical rehearsals (from January through March), and other special services, including (but not limited to) Christmas Eve and Easter. Additional time outside of in-person attendance is required to select and prepare all keyboard music for weekly and special services.

Duties and Responsibilities

As Accompanist:

1. Accompany the Trinity Choir during worship services and at weekly Thursday evening rehearsals from September to June. Rehearse separately as needed with vocal or instrumental soloists or ensembles participating in choir anthems.
2. Prepare all choir music on piano, including keyboard accompaniment and voice parts, practicing and organizing music in advance to provide professional, high quality accompaniments at rehearsals and services. Rehearsals typically involve the week's 3 hymns and scheduled choir anthem, as well as 3-5 anthems to be presented in successive weeks. More music is rehearsed leading up to Christmas Eve and Easter services.
3. Provide special music and accompaniment at special worship services such as Christmas Cantata Sunday, Christmas Eve, Easter, during Advent and Lent, and at other times (e.g. memorial services) where participation of the Accompanist/Church Pianist is required. Rehearse separately with instrumentalists and other soloists and attend extra rehearsals as necessary.

4. Prepare, rehearse, and provide accompaniment for special events such as the annual LOGOS musical, the annual Musical Treats and Bountiful Sweets fundraiser, and other events as assigned. Rehearse with soloists or instrumentalists as required. Schedule and attend extra rehearsals as required.
5. During the summer and when the Trinity Choir is not singing, prepare and rehearse with vocal and instrumental soloists to provide special music during weekly worship services.

As Church Pianist:

1. Serve as second keyboard player for weekly worship services. Plan with Music Director to share the weekly playing responsibilities for all music required in the service. Select, prepare, and play preludes, hymns, introits and responses, offertories, music during communion, music during transitions in the service, postludes, and special music.
2. Play piano as part of the CMPC band, which plays contemporary hymns during Sunday worship services at regular intervals during the year. Play voice part to be sung by the congregation as well as keyboard part provided in the score. Transpose as necessary to play with band's guitars in a key appropriate for congregational singing. Provide all these skills with minimal rehearsal time.
3. Is responsible for the maintenance of the church's three pianos. Schedule tuning every three months for the sanctuary piano (Steinway B) with the church's piano technician, scheduling the visits to ensure piano is in top form for Christmas Cantata, Christmas Eve, Easter, and other worship events. Process billing with church's accountant to ensure technician is paid promptly. Schedule the upright pianos to be tuned every six months, coordinating schedule to coincide with Maundy Thursday and other services in Fellowship Hall. Advocate as necessary to maintain HVAC environment and other conditions necessary for the long-term preservation of the instruments.
4. Coordinate vacations and planned absences with Music Director so that all Sunday services are covered. Help identify substitute pianists who are skilled in choral accompanying and playing worship services who could fill in when necessary.

Skills and Qualifications

1. Professed faith in Jesus Christ.
2. Willingness to support the music ministry and the mission of CMPC.
3. Excellent skills and experience as a pianist and a choral accompanist: excellent sight-reading ability; ability to prepare and play multiple choir anthems (voice parts in open score as well as piano parts) for weekly choir rehearsals; ability to prepare and play up to 1-3 piano solos and 1-3 hymns that are new every week.
4. Experience and competence in accompanying vocal and instrumental soloists.
5. Familiarity with seasons of the church year in order to make appropriate selections for keyboard solos.
6. Willingness and ability to practice sufficiently to maintain a high quality of music.

7. The ability to work well with others, adaptability, and flexibility are necessary characteristics.

Salary

Negotiable, consistent with candidate's education, experience, and skill level

Contact

Qualified applicants should email a cover letter and resume to Rev. Scott Hoffman at pastor.hoffman@cmppusa.org