

First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia

Job Posting: Music Director

*Salary Range \$20.75-22.75/ hour (\$43,160-47,320 annual Full Time Equivalent)
Salary pro-rated for 15-25 hours/week; Exempt*

Health Benefits & Paid Vacation

This position requires flexible hours, including regular Sunday morning hours, evening choir rehearsals, and occasional daytime, evening, and weekend meetings.

The First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia is a progressive and spiritually diverse congregation whose purpose is to deepen souls, expand justice, and grow the Beloved Community. Rooted in our historic home at 22nd and Chestnut Streets in Center City Philadelphia, we are a vibrant growing congregation that deeply values its eclectic music program. In the next chapter of our music program, we are looking for the leader who can help us grow our program's diversity, excellence, and impact, and are therefore open to conversations with candidates around their ideas about hours, staff roles, and program structure.

Position Summary: The Music Director will collaborate with the Minister, other staff and laypeople to provide dynamic and skilled leadership to all aspects of our music program. The director will need to provide a variety of music by performing, recruiting volunteers and hiring local musicians.

Our Worship:

Our spirit-filled worship draws from many sources, including sacred texts, poetry, stories, and music from cultures and religions all around the world. Our congregation comes together around a shared set of values – values like honoring each person's inherent worth, respecting the interdependent web of life, and working for justice in our lifetimes – and celebrates the theological diversity in our congregation that each of us learn and grow from. Across the congregation, we have people who identify theologically as Unitarian Universalists as well as Agnostics, Atheists, Christians, Buddhists, Pagans, Jews, Muslims, and more. We have a ~25 voice choir that sings most Sundays, in addition to several other small vocal and instrumental ensembles and are looking to expand. The church also has an excellent Steinway piano and a 50-rank, 3 manual 1966 Casavant pipe organ.

Essential Functions:

- **Choir Direction:** Provide excellent leadership and training as director of the First Unitarian Choir, as well as direct or find volunteer directors for our once-a-month intergenerational "First Church Voices" choir and any new vocal groups.
- **Worship Planning:** Collaborate with the Minister and guest preachers to plan weekly music for worship (working together to select hymns, choral or instrumental pieces, soloists, bands, instrumental ensembles); contribute knowledge of diverse musical genres, (for example, the recent repertoire performed in worship includes choral composers like Gabriel Faure, Donnie McClurkin, Morten Lauridsen, Hezekiah Walker, Richard Smallwood, Randall Thompson, H.T. Burleigh, and Johannes Brahms, as well as music from genres like jazz, pop, folk, R&B, Soul, rock and more).

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- Volunteer Leadership: Find and empower volunteer talent among the congregation and provide leadership that will create a satisfying musical experience for the volunteers and congregation.
- Accompaniment: Accompany the congregation and choir (piano and/or organ) or hire and supervise accompanist.
- Management: Manage the Choir schedule, music budget, and any paid performers.
- Special Events & Services: Provide and/or facilitate music at special congregational events and services (such as Christmas Eve, monthly Vespers service, etc.). Contract to provide accompaniment for Weddings and Memorial services.
- Staff Collaboration: Collaborate with Minister, Business Administrator, and rest of staff team in carrying out mission of congregation.

Core Competencies:

As the key musical leader in the congregation, the Music Director must be an excellent choral conductor and ideally will possess strong keyboard and vocal performance skills, as well as the organizational and leadership skills needed to manage a complex and growing program and budget. The ideal candidate will be collaborative, creative, and compassionate; will have a strong sense of integrity and will take initiative in trying new music, seeking new talent, and building new programs. The Music Director must be capable of leading a congregation towards greater diversity and authenticity in their musical expression while always maintaining the focus on creating a musically excellent, emotionally moving and spiritually powerful worship experience.

Physical Requirements:

Able to move freely around all four floors of our historic church building (as we are unfortunately not fully wheelchair accessible at this time).

To Apply: Send a résumé and cover letter detailing experience with choral and ensemble conducting, accompaniment and solo performance, collaborative program development, and working with diverse repertoire to music.search@philauu.org by May 25, 2018 to the attention of the Music Director Search Team. Video samples also welcome. Interviews will take place in May/June, with an anticipated start-date in July or August, 2018.

Diversity and Inclusion are core values of First Unitarian Church. We are an equal opportunity employer and will not allow discrimination based on age, race, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, national origin, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic background. Candidates of color and LGBTQ candidates are especially encouraged to apply.