



American Guild of
ORGANISTS



Organ Scholar Program, 2026–27

Job Purpose:

- To acquire mastery in service playing and keyboard skills required for a professional church musician in rehearsals and services.
- To acquire experience and proficiency conducting, teaching, and rehearsal techniques with the St. George's choirs.
- To experience working with young voices through chorister programs in rehearsals and giving lessons.
- To ensure that the highest level of professional performance standards is maintained, and to be proactive in this regard.
- To benefit from a year absorbing the weekly liturgical life of an Episcopal Church and to be equipped for vocational work as a professional church musician.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- The Organ Scholar will report to the Director of Music Ministries, who will be responsible for designating specific tasks on a weekly basis for the Organ Scholar. This includes playing the organ for services (hymns, voluntaries, services music, psalms, canticles, and anthems), conducting/rehearsing the choir, and coaching choristers. More tasks that are essential to the development of a church musician will be given. The Organ Scholar will observe and/or sing in the choirs when not fulfilling those roles.
- The Organ Scholar will receive a weekly lesson and coaching for those specific tasks from the Director of Music Ministries, or from another person designated by the Director of Music Ministries. This will include service playing, voluntaries, accompaniment, improvisation, vocal coaching, rehearsal technique, administrative skills, and other necessary skills to a successful sacred musician.
- The Organ Scholar will be available for all calendar events related to the music ministry, including all rehearsals related to these events.
- The Organ Scholar will prepare in their best capacity to maintain a high standard of music-making including all rehearsals.
- The Organ Scholar will present a full-length recital on Buzard Op. 48 in the season of 2026-27 *In Excelsis Series*.
- The Organ Scholar will represent St. George's and the AGO with responsible and professional behavior and will be committed to clear and professional communication with clergy, staff, and volunteers.

- The Organ Scholar will be present in administrative meetings if asked by the Director of Music Ministries and will be given some administrative tasks by the Director of Music Ministries if seen as an important experience for the development of the Organ Scholar.

Compensation:

- In total, the Organ Scholar will receive a \$34,000 salary payable semi-monthly, a \$3,000 housing stipend, and health insurance.
- This is an at-will position that can be ended at any time for any reason or no reason by either St. George's or the Intern.
- This agreement is contingent on the Intern passing a background check to be conducted by the Diocese of Tennessee.

Education and Training:

- Candidates should have at least one college degree, with a preference for degrees in music and/or commensurate professional certifications from the American Guild of Organists or Royal College of Organists and possess a strong desire for continued professional work as a church musician.
- Candidates will have previous experience in choral accompaniment and choral directing.
- Candidates will have acquired an advanced level of proficiency in public performance of organ repertoire.

Knowledge and Experience:

- Proficient sight-reading skills.
- Prior experience directing choirs.
- Possess good oral and written communication skills.
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- Commitment to further professional development.

This position is designed for 40 hours per week.

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