



KENSINGTON

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Job Title: Choir Director

Overview: Kensington Presbyterian Church is an active congregation located at the centre of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. Music is an important part of our worship service. Our music program, which may include traditional classical, modern, contemporary pieces, spirituals, and praise music, reflects the diversity within our congregation. With people from all over the world and all ages, our music also draws from all genres and cultures. The Kensington Senior (Adult) Choir consists of a small group of volunteers of various skill levels and is a regular feature of worship services. They usually sing an introit and an anthem every week and support the congregational singing of hymns. Most of our hymns are from the *Book of Praise* (Presbyterian Church in Canada), but other sources may be used. The choir is usually accompanied by the piano, but when appropriate, guest musicians (including children) from the congregation or from outside the church may be invited to play instruments such as violin, clarinet, drums, bass and guitar. We are particularly interested in finding a director with the ideas and energy to rebuild our music program after a long absence in this Covid year.

The Choir Director will prepare and present the music program in consultation with the Kirk Session Worship & Music Committee as well as the Minister. The Choir Director will also lead and conduct the choir during rehearsals and Sunday morning worship services.

Responsibilities:

- Conducting and directing during choir practices and the musical portions of the Sunday morning worship services.
- Selecting, in consultation with the Minister, the music (hymns, introit, and anthem) to be used for Church services, including:
 - Reviewing the printed music available at the Church to select suitable works for the Choir and for the Church services.
 - Purchasing new music in keeping with the budget established by the Worship & Music Committee of the Kirk Session.
 - Reporting our music use to copyright organizations (ex. CCLI) when appropriate.
 - Giving details of the music for the next service to the appropriate person in time for the bulletin.
 - Overseeing the distributing, collecting, sorting, and filing of the Church music, with the help of the volunteer choir librarian.
- Directing, training, and developing the choir at regular practices on Thursday evenings and before Church services on Sunday mornings.
- Recruiting new choir members, and, in consultation with the Worship & Music Committee of the Kirk Session, including leads or soloists.

- Supporting the musical participation of young people and children in worship services. Cooperating with special activities of other Church groups.
- Coordinating volunteer Kensington musicians for participation in church services.
- Overseeing and coordinating any *ad hoc* projects related to the music ministry (eg. weddings and funerals), including an annual concert, to be recompensed by additional fees.
- To organize a replacement for his/her absences.

Qualifications:

- A skilled and versatile musician able to lead our choir and congregation in an eclectic music program including traditional classical, modern, and contemporary pieces, spirituals, and praise music.
- Experience in planning and leading worship.
- Strong organizational, communication, and leadership skills.
- Commitment to musical excellence and an ability to lead an amateur choir.
- Ability and willingness to work closely with others, including, but not limited to, the Minister, the Pianist, the Worship & Music Committee, president of the choir, choir members, special soloists and/or leads, and members of the congregation.
- Contacts with other choirs and musicians and ability to recruit external musicians when needed.

Assets:

- Familiarity with music technologies related to rehearsing &/or recording (ex. Flipgrid, DAW, Bandlad, Soundtrap...).
- Ability to communicate in French.

Working Conditions:

- Approximately 6 hours per week.

September to June

- Choir practice: Thursday evenings 7:30 – 9:00
- Sunday morning warm-up/rehearsal: 9:30 – 10:20
- Sunday morning worship service: 10:30 – 11:40
- Special services on Christmas Eve and Good Friday
- Annual Concert, Christmas potluck and Shrove Tuesday dinners (choir to lead congregational singing)

June to August

- Sunday morning worship service: 10:30 – 11:40
- Sunday morning rehearsal, as required.

Remuneration:

Salary will depend on the candidate's qualification and experience with reference to the scales of the RCCO salary table.

Start Date:

To be determined. Rebuilding the choir after more than year of absence will be the first task of the Choir Director. Preliminary work could include devising ways of incorporating vocal music in our zoom services while we await clearance for resumption of choral music and hymn singing in regular church services.

Application:

Please forward a brief letter of intent and your *curriculum vitae* to Yuka Fukushima (yuka.nf@gmail.com).

Due to the current COVID circumstances, a traditional in-person audition would not be possible. Therefore, we would ask that the candidates provide video and/or audio recordings of themselves conducting two contrasting pieces.

Should the candidates for choir director be interesting in applying as an accompanist as well, please also provide a sample of themselves playing a hymn of their choice.