

Excellence in Music

A Vision for Ministry



All Saints' Episcopal Church

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Dear Friends in Christ:

The music ministry that we hope to offer at All Saints' provides opportunities for people of all ages and all levels of experience and skills to participate. All musical offerings further our mission of glorifying Christ and living for others. We strive for excellence in order to offer God our best and in order to continue growing and learning.

On the one hand, we envision a group of singers who have the expertise to offer extraordinary music. Participation in such an ensemble will require auditions. On the other hand, we anticipate a choir that welcomes beginners, with a "come-one, come-all" approach. We also eagerly look forward to beginning a children's choir.

We affirm the use of many instruments to support the singing and to adorn the liturgy, and we anticipate continuing to expand the use of instruments. Being integral to worship, the music will continue to reinforce the same reverence, creativity, and joy as the liturgy.

In addition to a parish children's choir, we envision eventually developing a regional choral school for children. Such a teaching and performing choral school represents a major musical outreach for the parish, and is consistent with our longstanding mission to children and their families. We envision that the choral school will support and complement our mission to All Saints' Day School. It will be open to children from the entire Central Coast and Salinas Valley. Such a choral school would not replace our parish children's choir, but would provide children the opportunity to travel farther on the path of musical excellence. Both children's musical groups would regularly offer music during the liturgy.

To grow into such a dynamic and inclusive music ministry, we need a full-time director with unique skills and faithful dedication. Our plan is to create a job description this spring, to advertise in the summer, and to hire that special leader after the beginning of 2011. This timing is consistent with the vestry's strategic financial plan, and permits us to start a children's choir in the fall of that year, and to continue planning for the choral school. We are thankful that Andrea Matters has agreed to continue volunteering until the new director arrives. We welcome your responses and your prayers.

Vestry Members: Nan Borreson, Susan Britton, Allan Groves, Nancy Jones, LeAnn Keaton, Donald Kirk, Tom Livelli, Marcia McCleary, Mike Touse, the Rev. Daniel Green, the Rev. Rick Matters

Discernment Group: Susan Britton, Nancy Jones, Andrea Matters, Mark Mancina, Richard Wilson, the Rev. Rick Matters

Overall Music Ministry at All Saints'

Goals of Music Ministry

- Offer music to the glory of Christ
- Offer compelling music that both comforts the soul and invites people to live for others
- Develop the artistry of musicians of all ages and provides venues for people to sing or play
- Offer a program that specializes in choral music, with instruments complementing singing
- Enrich lives by offering music from a variety of sources and traditions
- Reach out to the community with liturgy, concerts, and tours
- Provide music of excellence in the liturgy every Sunday
- Repair or upgrade the organ

Who is Involved

- Professional staff: full-time Director of Music and part-time organist
- Adults to children, from beginners to those of extraordinary accomplishment
- Instrumentalists within our parish and beyond
- In partnership with the Carmel Bach Festival each summer

Parish Children's Choir at All Saints'

Goals

- Proclaim and celebrate the Christian faith through music
- Form the Christian faith and develop the character of students
- Develop musical artistry of students
- Provide venue for students to serve Christ and express their faith

Description of Children's Choir

- Open to all children, with no audition required
- There is no cost to participate
- Establish covenant of expectations between parish, parents, and students
- Rehearse once a week during the school year
- Sing in the liturgy approximately once a month

Choral School at All Saints'

Here are some preliminary details of the Choral School that we are dreaming about. We look forward to your thoughts and dreams about this significant musical outreach. We anticipate that our Director of Music will also provide leadership in helping embody this dream.

Goals

- Proclaim and celebrate the Christian faith through music
- Instill values that develop the character of students, faculty, and families
- Develop musical artistry of students and faculty
- Develop students' maturity and poise by providing opportunities to perform
- Inculcate a desire to learn and grow
- Nurture passion for music and appreciation of beauty
- Expand appreciation for different cultures and languages
- Establish and maintain a standard of excellence
- Provide opportunities to perform

Expectations of the Choristers

- Memorize music
- Learn music theory
- Develop skill in sight reading
- Sing in many different languages
- Sing in the liturgy, give concerts, and go on tour
- Strive for excellence at each level of expertise
- Perform both sacred and secular music

The Chorus School Program

- Serves as a teaching and performing chorus
- Requires auditions
- Sets expectations for parents and choristers
- Establishes age limits
- Utilizes children and adult instrumentalists to accompany choir
- Uses a teaching program such as the Royal School of Church Music
- Students sing in the liturgy approximately once a month
- Complements and supports curriculum at the Day School

Chorus School Structure

- Composed of multi-tiered choirs with age-based goals and skills
- Serves children in entire Central Coast, Salinas Valley, and beyond
- Holds rehearsals after school or on weekends
- Runs nine or ten months each year, providing a break in the summer, with the number of weekly rehearsals dependent on level of choir and performance goals
- Charges tuition on a sliding scale and offers scholarships
- Includes regular schedule of tours
- Receives underwriting and creates endowment to support operation of program