



CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOUSTON

First Presbyterian Church of Houston is seeking a Director of the Chancel Choir.

In brief, we are seeking:

- *A sincere Christ-follower*
- *An inspiring leader*
- *An exemplary choral artist with deep insight into worship and pedagogy*

First Presbyterian Church is a vibrant and active congregation with a history of over one-hundred eighty-six years. Dedicated to mission and active in service, the church is located in the heart of Houston's museum district and medical center. Dr. John Yarrington has led the First Presbyterian Chancel Choir for over twenty years, building a ministry of choral excellence and Christian community. Dr. Yarrington retires in May 2022, and we are actively seeking the choir's next conductor.

The Choir of about fifty members sings excellent and varied repertoire and seasonal major works with instrumental ensembles or orchestra. The First Pres Choir is a capable one and enjoys the supportive leadership of a professional octet. Among the church's instruments, the sanctuary piano is a Steinway D, and the main organ is a magnificent Aeolian-Skinner refurbished by Schoenstein. The 1947 Sanctuary is a beautiful worship space with fine acoustics.

The Chancel Choir Director will join a highly skilled team of musicians and support staff including an exceptional Organist/Accompanist, Department Administrator, Director of Worship Ministries, Contemporary Worship Leader, Children's and Bell Choir Directors, and extensive support in Audio, Video and Communications. The pastoral staff is excellent and serving with them is a pleasure.

The Chancel Choir Director position is a very substantial part-time position, and compensation will be competitive and commensurate with experience and proven work in choral music ministry.

First Presbyterian Church is affiliated with the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians. Applicants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with ECO at www.eco-pres.org.

- Our target date for hiring is August 1, 2022, but the search may extend depending on applicants and circumstances.
- [Apply online using this form](#). The form will provide an opportunity to upload resumes and references.
- Video of choral work (rehearsal and/or performance) is essential—please include links in the application form where indicated.

Direct emails and phone calls to Dan Wagner, Director of Worship at conductor@fpchouston.org or call 713.620.6444.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOUSTON, TEXAS

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Director of Chancel Choir **Reports to:** Director of Worship

Department: Worship and Music **Date:** February 28, 2022

Role Description

Director of the Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Houston (FPC). Includes training and development of the choir, planning and coordination of choral music for worship services and special programs throughout the year. Lead the choir in an effective ministry that reflects the principles, mission and vision of First Presbyterian Church, Houston, and the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians (ECO).

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Schedule and conduct weekly (currently Thursdays) and special rehearsals for the Chancel Choir and lead choir in worship services, Christmas Eve, Holy Week, occasional funerals, special services and programs.
- Demonstrate a commitment to excellence in training, development and execution of choral music.
- Recruit quality paid section leaders and manage those relationships for the benefit of the choir and church mission.
- Facilitate a collegial, family atmosphere within the choir, encouraging spiritual formation and providing pastoral care. Participate in choir social activities.
- Provide administrative and artistic leadership/communication to accompanists, organists and instrumentalists in planning and conducting choral music for rehearsals and worship services involving the Chancel Choir.
- Attend Chancel Choir Officers meetings and consult with officers in determining choir procedures; recruitment of new members; spiritual formation/development of the choir; church-wide and community mission activities; choir community-building activities; mission trip planning; and budgets.
- Engage and build relationships with the congregation of FPC.
- Support all programs and staff within the Worship, Music and Fine Arts Ministry.
- Work within the confines of church policies and procedures.
- Maintain regular communication with the Director of Worship to ensure smooth and effective worship planning, including coordination of guest and substitute directors/conductors.

- Collaborate with the Director of Worship in planning, conducting, sharing or delegating leadership of possible additional choirs or ensembles as the ministry might require. (It is likely that an additional morning service will be added to the schedule in the future.)

Budget Development

- Develop and submit an annual budget for the Chancel Choir to the Director of Worship.
- Submit and manage payment requests for any expenses related to the position including paid section leaders, instrumental hires and all other departmental expenses.

Minimum Qualifications

- Master's degree in Music or demonstrated proficiency.
- Demonstrated successful experience working with instrumentalists and conducting professional orchestras.
- Proven understanding of choral music as it contributes to the faith formation inherent in worship.
- Ability to articulate a philosophy/theology of worship and how and why the ministry of the choir fits into it.
- Depth of knowledge of core sacred choral repertoire, ability to embrace many genres, and discernment in finding the best music for the worship setting.
- Demonstrated skill in current office and music technology.
- Understand and affirm the principles and beliefs of FPC and the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians (ECO).

Preferred Qualifications

- Five-to-ten years of experience directing a church choir.
- Paid staff experience directing music programs in a large church environment.
- Experience in planning and executing multi-organizational and multi-departmental music ministry events.
- A strong awareness of and interest in the new sacred choral music.
- Arranging, composition, and orchestration skills. (Published music).
- Doctoral degree.

Important Links

- <https://fpchouston.org/worship/music-choir/about-our-pipe-organ/>
- <https://fpchouston.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Ave-Verum-Requiem-for-the-Living-Forrest.mp3>
- <https://fpchouston.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Gloria-Mvmt-I-Rutter-.mp3>
- <https://fpchouston.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/God-Of-Heaven-Sorenson.mp3>
- <https://fpchouston.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Lux-Aeterna-Requiem-for-the-Living-Forrest.mp3>

- <https://fpchouston.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Magnum-Mysterium-Lauridsen.mp3>
- <https://fpchouston.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Nobody-Shoutin-Like-Me-Sorenson.mp3>
- <https://fpchouston.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Sing-Pray-and-Follow-Gods-Own-Leading-Mendelssohn.mp3>
- <https://fpchouston.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Vanitas-Requiem-for-the-Living-Forrest-.mp3>
- <https://fpchouston.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Psalm-42-Sorenson.mp3>
- <https://fpchouston.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/When-I-Survey-the-Wondrous-Cross-Martin.mp3>