

**Corpus Christi Watershed** is a 501(c)3 public charity. **Our organization does not endorse (or denigrate) any specific job offer.** We merely pass them along to those who might be interested.

**THE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION**  
**1225 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North • Nashville, Tennessee 37211**  
**[www.assumptionnashville.org](http://www.assumptionnashville.org)**

**Job Description: Director of Sacred Music**

The historic Church of the Assumption located downtown in the Germantown neighborhood of Nashville, TN is the Traditional Latin Mass apostolate of the Diocese of Nashville. It is a small parish of approximately 175 families. We are looking for an enthusiastic director to build our music program from the ground up. \$1.5M endowment has been established for this program to become, over the next ten years, one of the premier sacred music programs in the entire country. We are searching for a Music Director to lead the music program forward for the glory of God and the edification of the faithful.

Germantown is a rapidly gentrifying, walkable area of downtown Nashville. It, along with the Church of the Assumption, was hit with a tornado in 2019. The neighborhood is filling up with brand new apartments and condos and is home to some of the best restaurants in Nashville. The gothic church (1859) the second oldest church in the city is in the process of being fully restored, and our 1895 organ has been substantially rebuilt. This restoration has been an \$8M project. The position can be negotiated to include use of a house with utilities next door to the parish in a highly desirable neighborhood. There are gyms, groceries, restaurants, and the Capitol all within a short walk.

Assumption has a volunteer mens' chant schola who currently sing at the Sunday *Missa Cantata*, Vespers on the third Sunday of each month, and any major solemnities that occur during the week. We seek to build on this program and desire to foster truly beautiful liturgy and excellent sacred music. We intend to start this as a half-time position (20 hours/week). We would like to see the position develop into a full-time position (40 hours/week). Both these positions include a benefits package available through the Diocese of Nashville. The position reports directly to the Pastor, Fr. Bede Price, MA (Oxon).

**Duties and Responsibilities (20 hrs):**

- Primary: Recruit, teach and direct the men's chant schola.
- Develop our music program to involve a full choir of volunteers and stipendiary section leaders capable of sacred polyphony.
- Direct music/schola for Sunday High Mass and Sunday Vespers as well as any 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> class feast day High Masses occurring during the week (1-3/month).
- Direct music/schola as well as special practices for *Tenebrae* and the full ceremonies of the Sacred Triduum (1954).
- Conduct two weekly schola rehearsals (mid-week and prior to the High Mass on Sunday).
- Work collaboratively with our Pastor, Parish Organist, and Parish Secretary/Office Manager.
- Provide cantor(s) for parish weddings, & funerals as appropriate.
- Provide cantor(s) and, working with the parish organist, supervise any visiting musicians for non-parish weddings (about 30/year). These services are stipendiary, bonus income in addition to salaried compensation and benefits.
- Curate and maintain an orderly music library, following all relevant copyright laws.
- Manage discretionary budget as allotted for music department needs such as paid choral section leaders, instrumentalists, music, etc.
- Meet and maintain compliance with the Diocese of Nashville's policies on Safe Environments for Children, and ensure that any volunteers associated with the music program will comply with those Diocesan policies.
- Design and produce printed worship aids, primarily for Weddings, & Funerals, as appropriate.
- Other duties as assigned by the Pastor.

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### **Education/Experience Requirements:**

- This role requires a combination of education and experience in Sacred Music; relevant music degrees, certifications, colloquium/conference attendance, performance experience, work experience, and liturgical knowledge will all be considered in assessing a candidate's fitness for the role.
- Proficient keyboard skills, sufficient for leading rehearsals.
- Demonstrated proficiency in Gregorian Chant, renaissance polyphony.
- Ability to teach chant to volunteers as well as directing and conducting the same are crucial.
- Thorough knowledge of Catholic liturgy and the Church's patrimony of sacred music.
- Experience with, and knowledge of, the Traditional Latin Mass is required, though training is available for the right candidate.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Candidates should be adept at using software such as Sibelius for making programs and typesetting music etc.
- Commitment to modeling the values of the Roman Catholic Church is not negotiable.
- Candidates must be an initiator, leader, and person committed to seeing the parish grow.

### **Additional Details**

**Start Date:** January 2023

**Location:** Assumption Church, Nashville, TN

**Compensation:** Part time salary depends on experience and education, starting at \$24,000/annually with benefits available; Non-parish Weddings provide additional income (30+ stipendiary weddings/annually); Housing and utilities, on campus available (\$30,000/annually).

**Hymnal:** TBD in consultation with the Pastor and Parish Organist.

**Instruments:** Johnson & Son II/29 (1895, restored 2023); there is a dedicated choir room for rehearsals with a practice organ, Wicks II/4 (1920s) and piano.

**Hours/Schedule:** Position is initially part-time, (20 hours/week) but actual hours may vary from week-to-week depending on season (ie. Holy Week); flexible office hours, including possibility of some prep work from home, but requires at least one full onsite office day per week. The job will eventually develop into a full-time position (40 hours/week) with added responsibilities. That development would be dependent on the hire being willing to recruit and build the program. This would involve the work of expanding our existing 4-5 man schola into a larger choir, it could involve taking charge and organizing concert series and other endeavors.

Simply put, we are seeking to hire a person who will grow the program from where we are now (part time) to where we want to be (full time), as soon as possible. Much of this will depend on the enthusiasm of the candidate.

**Parish Website:** [www.assumptionnashville.org](http://www.assumptionnashville.org)

Interested parties should present a cover letter and *Curriculum Vitae* to [assumption1859@gmail.com](mailto:assumption1859@gmail.com). This will be followed up by a zoom call, and final candidates will be invited to Nashville for an in-person interview. Please also feel free to contact with any questions.