

Associate Choir Director

Mater Dei Latin Mass Parish

Irving, TX

Terms: Part-Time

Pay: Negotiable

Job Description:

The Associate Choir Director is a qualified, skilled vocalist with a servant's heart for the Traditional liturgy. The successful candidate should be an active, practicing Catholic in good standing, with a strong familiarity with the primary forms of Catholic sacred music (chant and polyphony), and have a desire to execute this music at a high level.

Primary Duties:

- **Assistant Director of the Mater Dei Sunday Choir**
 - Learn the choir's full repertoire and strong knowledge of the traditional calendar and feasts in detail
 - Run sectional rehearsals with men at Wednesday evening rehearsals, as needed.
 - Sing as a member in the Mater Dei Sunday Choir, most Sundays
 - Fill in directing Wednesday evening rehearsals and/or at Sunday's 9am mass on occasion, for the music director
 - Start warm ups/organizing of Wed. rehearsal on occasion for the music director.

- **Director of the parish men's schola**
 - Responsible for re-evaluation of current men schola members' skill level and any new recruits.
 - Direct men's schola for some funerals, when available
 - Direct the weekly Sunday morning rehearsals to prepare chants for high mass
 - Re-establish a monthly rehearsal for the men schola (on a weeknight or a Saturday) to build greater skill with chant and prepare music for a once-a-month mass on their own
 - Flexibility with monthly rehearsals that entail collaborating w/ music director on music the men will sing with the St. Gregory boys choir, 4x/year
 - Possibly work on music for a couple men-schola-only feast days
 - Men schola currently knows a few polyphonic motets on their own; continue to work on these with them, while considering a few new choral pieces they could learn.

- Direct men schola for Christmas midnight mass, ALL Holy Week/Easter Vigil chants, and joint rehearsal with music director to prepare both scholas for Tenebrae.
- **Organizational:** Quarterly meetings with the Music Director to discuss shared responsibility of rehearsal schedule, any new music decisions, etc.; assist with choir announcements, signups for new choir members, and filing/organizing storage of music
- **Assist w/ Choir Fundraising**
 - Helping to establish 1 or 2 sacred music concerts a year at the church, as fundraisers for the parish's capital campaign, and/or assist with better marketing of the choir's CDs

Optional Involvement:

Part-time Organist (limited duties)

- Accompany recessional hymns at 9am high mass most Sundays , and occasionally other hymns or motets that need organ accompaniment, prelude/postludes during festive seasons
- Accompany any music needed on the organ when children choirs are singing.
- Accompanist for parish weddings (separate stipend given)
- Ability to improvise strongly recommended.

Director of the Goretti Youth Choir (ages 13-17, mixed voices)

Youth choir rehearsals would be Thursdays, 6:30-7:45pm

- This will be its 2nd year; based on 1st-year experience, a stronger focus on chant would be best to really work on unified singing, with a few simple choral pieces, canons, and hymns sprinkled in; also working on building sight-reading skills with modern music and basic music theory. Young men in the choir showed a need for more instruction on breath support and use of head voice.
- 2 music books used with them thus far: "Gregorian chant workbook" and "Essential Musicianship, Vol 1"
- Youth choir would tentatively sing the following dates:
 - 1 Thursday evening low mass (6:30pm) every other month (1x ea in Nov, Jan, Mar, and May) - *exact dates not yet set*
 - Sing 3 high masses for the year: Dec. 12, Feb 22, and Apr 25, using simplified propers (previously have used a combination of Rossini & chant abreges)
- Near Christmas: work with music director on organizing EITHER a caroling event that combines the youth and adult choir members OR to go caroling at a nursing home.