American Guild of Organists Organ Scholar Program

Duke University Chapel 2022–2023

Job Purpose:
To acquire mastery in service playing and keyboard skills: hymn playing, choral accompaniment, improvisation, transposition, figured bass, and sight reading, as well as to develop organ playing repertory,

To acquire confidence and proficiency conducting, teaching, and working with the Chapel's choirs in rehearsals and services,

To ensure that the highest level of professional performance standards are maintained, and to be proactive in this regard,

To benefit from a year absorbing the weekly liturgical life of a large university chapel and to be equipped for vocational work as a professional church musician.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Assist in accompanying and providing music for Sunday morning, Choral Evensong and Choral Vespers services as assigned with the Chapel Organist. Observe and/or sing in the choirs when not playing.

Attend, sing in, and accompany (as assigned) Monday rehearsals of the Evensong Singers and Vespers Ensemble and Wednesday rehearsals of the Chapel Choir.

Provide organ music for midday Thursday service in the Divinity School in rotation with Chapel Organist.

Study service playing, choral accompaniment, improvisation, keyboard skills with the Chapel Organist on a weekly basis. Study conducting with the Director of Chapel Music bi-weekly, and voice/early music techniques monthly with the Associate Conductor for Chapel Music.

Thoroughly prepare all assigned accompaniments, service music, and voluntaries for Sunday morning worship, Choral Evensong and Vespers services in a supportive, hands-on practical environment by maintaining a habit of regular practice on Duke Chapel’s organs: IV Aeolian (1932), IV Flentrop (1976), II Brombaugh (1997), and II Richards & Fowkes (2008).
Divide playing for Saturday weddings in Duke Chapel in consultation with the Chapel Organist.

Participate fully the broader liturgical life of Duke Chapel with Chapel musicians and clergy by attending staff and worship planning meetings.

Assist and oversee the maintenance and care of the choir library for Evensong Singers and Vespers.

Present a full-length recital on the Chapel’s organs.

Under the guidance of the Chapel Organist prepare for AGO examinations.

This position is designed at 40 hours per week.

**Education and Training:**
Candidates should have at least one college degree, with a preference for degrees in music and/or commensurate professional certifications from the American Guild of Organists or Royal College of Organists, and possess a strong desire for continued professional work as a church musician.

Candidates will have previous experience in choral accompaniment and choral directing.

Candidates will have acquired an advanced level of proficiency in public performance of organ repertoire.

**Knowledge and Experience:**

Proficient sight reading skills

Prior experience directing choirs

Posses good oral and written communication skills

Strong interpersonal skills

Commitment to further professional development