



Organ Scholar Program, 2023–2024

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 services in the Divinity School in rotation with the Chapel Organist.
- Study service playing, choral accompaniment, improvisation, and keyboard skills with the Chapel Organist on a weekly basis.
- Study related topics in sacred music with the Director of Chapel Music and Conductor-in-Residence (such as conducting, rehearsal techniques, voice, early music techniques, composition and arranging).
- 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).
- Play for Saturday weddings in Duke Chapel as assigned by the Chapel Organist.
- Participate fully in the broader liturgical life of Duke Chapel with Chapel musicians and clergy by attending staff and worship planning meetings.

- Assist with and oversee the maintenance and care of the choir library for Evensong Singers and Vespers.
- Present a full-length recital on one or more of the Chapel's organs.
- Under the guidance of the Chapel Organist, prepare for AGO examinations.

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.
- Possess good oral and written communication skills.
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- Commitment to further professional development.

This position is designed for 40 hours per week.

For further information, please contact:

Jillian Gardner
Chair, Organ Scholar Program
organscholar@agohq.org

American Guild of Organists National Headquarters

475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260, New York, NY 10115-0055

t 212. 870. 2310 | **f** 212. 870. 2163 | info@agohq.org | agohq.org