



High School Organ Scholar Program 2024–2025

The Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis is seeking two highly gifted musicians to fill the open organ scholar positions. Please see the position description below. This program is intended for high school students with aspirations for a career in organ and sacred music. Formal piano or organ instruction is required. Advanced pianists with no formal organ training are encouraged to apply and will be given full consideration.

Purpose:

- To acquire mastery in service playing and keyboard skills: hymn playing, organ registration, choral accompaniment, improvisation, transposition, and sight-reading, as well as to develop an organ playing repertory.
- To ensure that the highest level of performance standards are maintained, and to be proactive in this regard.
- To benefit from a year or more absorbing the weekly liturgical life of a large cathedral and archdiocesan music program
- To be equipped for further colligate studies in organ and sacred music with a final goal of vocational work as a professional church musician.

Responsibilities:

- Attend weekly group organ lessons on Wednesday evenings from 5:00-7:00pm with the Director of Sacred Music for the Cathedral Basilica. Each student will spend one hour at the organ and one hour observing.
 - Weekly lessons will include basic conducting lessons as well.
- Attend weekly Cathedral Choir rehearsals: Wednesday night from 7:00-8:00 PM.
- Attend Sunday 10:00 AM High Mass with the Cathedral Choir.
- Opportunities will be given to assist in accompanying and providing music for weekend liturgies once a student has reached a proficient level of playing.
- Observe and/or sing in the choirs when not playing.
- Study service playing, choral accompaniment, choral conducting, improvisation, and keyboard skills with the cathedral music director on a weekly basis.
- Thoroughly prepare all repertoire, service music, and voluntaries as assigned.
- Present a full-length recital on the cathedral organs upon graduation.

Education and Eligibility Requirements:

- Candidates accepted to this position must be in high school, grades 9-12, and have a strong desire to pursue a four-year degree in organ performance and/or sacred music with goals for continued professional work as a church musician.
- No previous experience in choral accompaniment and choral directing required.

Knowledge and Experience:

- Proficient sight-reading skills.
- Advanced keyboard technique including either organ or piano.
- Some basic organ knowledge and training preferred but not required.
- Possess good oral and written communication skills.
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Commitment to further professional development
- Basic understanding of music theory

Application Requirements:

- Candidates should submit a cover letter providing a brief introduction of themselves, explanation of past piano and organ training, and any relevant experience relating to this type of work.
- A brief resume outlining previous work in the church is appreciated but not required.
- Candidates must submit a letter of recommendation from a current or former teacher.
- An audition consisting of two contrasting pieces of the classical, baroque, or 21st century repertoire along with a sample of hymn playing is required.

For further information, please contact:

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