



Position Title: Organ Scholar

Position: Exempt/40 hours per week. Two Year Term.

Idlewild Presbyterian Church is in search of a full-time organ scholar for a two-year term, inviting candidates with experience in organ performance, service playing and choral accompaniment. Tailored for a recent or upcoming graduate passionate about church music, this position offers ample opportunities for skill enhancement. The successful applicant will demonstrate proficiency in organ repertoire and possess collaborative abilities with both volunteers and staff.

Alongside a competitive salary and benefits package, this role entails a diverse array of responsibilities aimed at honing service playing and keyboard skills including repertoire, hymn playing, choral accompaniment, and improvisation. The organ scholar will also develop confidence in conducting, teaching, and collaborating with various choirs throughout rehearsals and services, offering an immersive experience in the church's life. Working closely with the Director of Music, the scholar will gain practical skills in the administration of a liturgical music program.

This position reports to the Director of Music and Organist and will undergo regular review to ensure continual growth and development. Celebrated for its vibrant and inclusive community, Idlewild is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Primary Responsibilities:

- Shares in playing of service music and organ voluntaries at Sunday services, including 8:30 am Chapel Service and 11 am Sanctuary Service.
- Participates in all choral, instrumental, and handbell rehearsals.
- Maintains a regular organ rehearsal schedule.
- Shares wedding and funeral assignments with the Director of Music. (compensated separately)
- Directs choirs and plays the organ in the absence of the Director of Music.
- Meets weekly with the Director of Music for coordination and planning.
- Attends all program and worship staff meetings as well as meetings of the Worship and Music Committee.
- Administrative duties include:
 - Maintain music library and all choral and instrumental folders.
 - Assist with Music Ministry communication, promotion and recruitment.
 - Coordinate and track attendance for all ensembles.
 - Oversee music program accounting and check requests.
 - Assist with set up for all rehearsals and programs.
- Other duties may be assigned based on the applicant skill set.

Qualifications

- Minimum bachelor's degree in organ performance, sacred music, or related experience.
- Demonstrated proficiency in the performance of organ repertoire.
- Experience in accompanying worship services and choral ensembles on the organ and piano.
- Ability to manage and execute administrative tasks.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Organized. Self-starter.
- Ability to work collaboratively with others.
- Eagerness to grow and develop in all areas of leadership and administration of a church music program.
- Proficiency in computer systems and use of Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Finale/Sibelius.

Package Details:

Salary: \$40,000–\$45,000 + Benefits

Applicants should submit a cover letter, résumé, and video recordings (see requirements below) by **Friday, February 14, 2025**. The position start date is flexible but ideally on or before **June 1, 2025**.

To apply, email: musicsearch@idlewildchurch.org

Video Recording Requirements:

1. One solo work for the organ suitable for a service voluntary.
2. One choral anthem accompanied by the candidate on the organ.
3. One hymn accompanied by the candidate on the organ, including an introduction and an improvised bridge before the final stanza.

Instruments at Idlewild

Bedient Organ (3 manuals/69 Ranks)

Schantz Organ (2 manuals/8 Ranks)

Paccard Carillon (48 Bells)

Yamaha Piano

Baldwin Piano

Idlewild Music Ministry

Under the direction of Landry Duvall, Director of Music, Idlewild Presbyterian Church offers dynamic music programs for all ages. The Chancel Choir, comprising 40 singers, provides music weekly for the 11 AM worship service. This ensemble is enhanced by a professional cohort of 8 staff singers. Recent repertoire includes John Rutter's *Gloria*, Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*, Daniel Pinkham's *Christmas Cantata*, and the upcoming presentation of Théodore Dubois' *The Seven Last Words of Christ*.

Idlewild regularly welcomes world-class organists for performances, with recent guests including Bradley Welch (2023) and Isabelle Demers (2024).

In addition to our adult choral program, Idlewild boasts a growing children's chorister program of 30 singers and a vibrant five-octave handbell ensemble. The Organ Scholar, if interested, may also have the unique opportunity to play Idlewild's 1999 Paccard Carillon, the largest carillon in the Mid-South.