

MUSIC DIRECTOR (PART-TIME)

JOB DESCRIPTION

Cornerstone, an Evangelical Free Church (cornerstonefree.org) is a congregation of about 175 members in the Washington, DC suburb of Annandale, VA. The church is affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America. Cornerstone is seeking a qualified Music Director to plan, prepare, and lead our church's music ministry. The position is part time, estimated at 15-20 hours per week.

Ministry Focus:

The primary focus of the Music Director is to lead worship in Cornerstone's Sunday morning worship service. The Music Director plans for worship services, prepares the Praise Team musically to lead the Sunday morning service, and directs the congregation in worship, singing, and liturgy. The Music Director demonstrates a mature balance between leadership of both the Praise Team and the congregation as well as high-level musical and artistic talents. The Music Director exercises general oversight of Cornerstone's Music Ministry.

The Music Director will lead voices and hearts in praise and worship to God in the Church's regular Sunday service and other gatherings.

Skills and Qualifications:

- Have personal relationship with Jesus Christ, will exhibit an exemplary Christian walk, including the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
- Desire to facilitate true worship of voice, heart, spirit that glorifies and praises God
- "Performance-level" musical abilities (high degree of musical talent, gifting, and calling)
- Experience in leading Christian groups in worship and singing
- Strong vocal/singing skills (extremely high proficiency)
- Prefer the candidate have strong instrumental skills on piano or guitar
- Prefer the candidate have formal biblical and/or theological training
- Experience in preparing music for congregational singing
- Appreciation of, and willingness to, incorporate various musical styles of the historic and contemporary church, including hymns and modern praise music
- Strong leadership and organizational skills
- Strong spiritual maturity based on solid theological background
- Ability, upon request, to lead various aspects the worship service (e.g., prayers, reading of scripture, and other aspects of worship)
- If not a member of Cornerstone, become a member, in full accord with the statement of faith in Article II of the Constitution of this church
- Accept and work within the organizational structure set forth in Cornerstone's Constitution and Bylaws

Areas of Responsibility:

- Lead the Cornerstone congregation in the Sunday morning worship service with the Praise Team
- Prepare the Praise and Audio/Video Teams for the Sunday morning worship service by leading rehearsals during the week and on Sunday mornings
- Schedule singers and musicians for the Praise Team
- In coordination with the Lead Pastor, plan the weekly music selection for the worship service
- Facilitate music ministry within the Cornerstone congregation by identifying and nurturing musical gifts and talent within church
- Recruit, develop, encourage, and facilitate participation from the congregation in Cornerstone's music ministry including vocal and instrumental performance as well as technical support
- Oversee preparation of slides for the Sunday morning service
- Schedule special offertory music to be played during collection of Sunday offerings, including individual singer, instrumentalists, and small groups, possibly accompanying others, as needed
- Plan special music for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and other holidays with congregational gatherings
- Coordinate with the Deacon of Worship to provide leadership necessary for music, technical, and audio/video ministries
- Coordinate with Choir Director for rehearsals and worship music schedule
- Report regularly to the Elders and Lead Pastor regarding the ministry of music in the church

Cornerstone's Current Music and Worship Style:

The Lead Pastor collaborates with the Music Director to determine set lists and order of worship. Songs are often chosen to support the themes of the sermon. Theological soundness of content is critical. The Praise Team currently rehearses on a weeknight and, again, on Sunday morning prior to the Sunday School hour (approximately 8:30 – 9:00). The church currently has one Sunday morning worship service that starts at 10:45.

Cornerstone's present worship style blends traditional hymns and contemporary music. Volunteer musicians rotate with the following positions each Sunday: 2 vocalists, 1 grand piano, 1 amplified acoustic guitar, 1 electric bass guitar, 1 drummer (djembe or set), and secondary percussionist (tambourine, egg), and 1 organist who accompanies the piano for traditional hymns. The Praise Team leads four to five songs per service. The songs are generally not all in one set, but are interspersed through the liturgy (i.e., between prayers and scripture readings). Cornerstone's current musical selection includes classic Hymns and popular worship songs from the last 2-3 decades. "Getty Radio" on Spotify or a similar music platform provides a good example of many selections currently done by the Praise Team.

In addition to the Praise Team, Cornerstone has historically had an adult Choir, led by a volunteer Choir Director. The Choir performs once or twice per month during the traditional academic school year. The Choir also renders longer, more complicated pieces for Christmas Eve or other special occasions. Finally, Cornerstone has historically also had a Hand Bell Choir, led by a volunteer. In the past, this Hand Bell Choir performed selections during the Worship service. It has not performed for several years, however.