

ENSEMBLE CHOIR DIRECTOR & PRINCIPAL ACCOMPANIST

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Germantown is looking for a choir director & principal accompanist to lead their **Ensemble Choir (formerly Contemporary Choir)** for 9:00am Sunday liturgies, with oversight of the 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass. This is a part-time position expected to take 10 - 20 hours per week depending on obligations.

Parish Mission

“St. Vincent de Paul is a faith community striving to live Jesus’ gospel message of love, peace, and justice for all peoples. In the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, we will serve those in need in our world throughout ministries. The celebration of the liturgy is central to us. Through the Eucharist and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will continue to nurture the gifts of all our members. Our parish family, while remembering our past, will draw strength and unity from our diversity. We will foster an atmosphere of warmth, hospitality and prayerfulness. We pray that our commitment to these efforts will further the mission of being one with our God and one with each other.”

You can read more at <https://www.saint-vincent-church.org/>.

St. Vincent’s Ensemble Choir

The Ensemble Choir leads music at the Sunday 9am liturgies. The Director also oversees a more streamlined music ministry for the 4:00 Saturday vigil Mass, supplementing volunteer accompanists as needed. The Ensemble Choir leads music for many of the parish’s special liturgies, including the Triduum, Christmas, holy days of obligation, etc., alternating or collaborating with St. Vincent’s Gospel Choir, which sings for the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. The ensemble choir’s repertoire ranges from traditional Catholic hymns to contemporary compositions. The choir is committed to repertoire written in the spirit of Vatican II, prioritizing accessible music that foregrounds St. Vincent’s core values of social justice, mercy, compassion, zeal, and faith.

Resources & Instruments

St. Vincent’s has access to the following resources for musicians:

- Parish OneLicense reprint permissions
- Full sound system
- Baldwin grand piano built ca. 1970-1980 (Main Church)
- Upright piano ca. 1940 (Chapel)
- Full drum set
- Full percussion drums including Congo drums of five pitches and djembe
- Tambourines, claves and maracas

Primary Duties

- Lead music & accompany the Ensemble Choir for 9am Sunday liturgies
- Lead music & accompany the Ensemble Choir for the following annual liturgies:
 - Holy Thursday 7pm Mass
 - Good Friday 3pm Service
 - Easter Vigil 7pm Mass
 - Easter Sunday 9am Mass
 - Christmas Eve 4:30pm Mass (with 30 minutes of prelude music)
 - Christmas Eve Midnight Mass
- Lead music & accompany **OR** coordinate volunteer/contracted musicians for special liturgies on Holy Days of Obligation (times vary)
- Ensure 4:00 Vigil Mass on Saturdays is regularly served by cantor and accompanist, participating 1-2 times per month as available
- Direct weekday evening rehearsal during the choir season (September - May)
- Update the hymnal board for Sundays when the pew hymnals are used
- Support St. Vincent's through musical offerings at retreats, prayer services, etc.
- Attend monthly Liturgy Council meetings on behalf of music ministry

Secondary Duties

- Accompany funerals, weddings, and other special Masses for additional compensation
- Hire professional musicians to supplement the Ensemble Choir for special liturgies when necessary and coordinate payment
- Coordinate with the Gospel Choir Director for combined performances and occasional sharing of duties
- Maintain Ensemble Choir music files, preset binders, and other music
- Produce worship aids for congregational use when necessary, using OneLicense account

Preferred Qualifications

- 3-5+ years of experience leading music in a liturgical setting
- Background in Catholic Liturgics
- Proficiency in voice, piano, percussion, and conducting
- Strong music reading skills, including sight-reading, transposition, rearrangement, SATB choral writing, and improvisation
- Knowledge of GIA music publications including *Gather Comprehensive (1st edition)*, *Lead Me*, *Guide Me*, and *African-American Heritage Hymnal*

Application Process

Interested applicants should submit the following via email to echoir@saint-vincent-church.org with the subject line “ENSEMBLE CHOIR DIRECTOR”:

- Cover letter outlining reason for interest in music ministry at St. Vincent’s, relevant prior experience, and pedagogical model for music ministry leadership
- C.V. or résumé
- Proposed orders of music for **two** Sundays: the [Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2026](#) and an Ordinary Time Sunday of the applicant’s choosing
 - Orders should include: opening hymn, psalm, offertory hymn, communion hymn, and closing hymn.
 - Orders may omit service music, but FYI, St. Vincent’s currently uses the *Storrington Mass* “Glory to God,” Bob Hurd & Ken Canedo’s “Alleluia! Give the Glory, and *Mass of Creation - Revised* by Marty Haugen, and Steven C. Warner’s *Mass of Charity and Love*, as well as the “Lord’s Prayer” from Steven C. Warner & Karen Kirner’s *Mass for our Lady*.