

Job Description for Organist (or pianist)

Location: First Church of Christ, Scientist, Edinburgh, 11 Young Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4 HU.

<https://www.christianscience.org.uk/edinburgh/tour.php>

Very central position with easy access from two tram stops, Waverley or Haymarket train stations and numerous bus stops.

Ongoing position. It is expected the musician would be self-employed for tax purposes.

Sunday mornings. Need to be able to play on Sunday mornings on a regular or rotational basis. Service is from 10:30-11:30. Rehearsals with the singer for the solo and hymns are usually between 9.30-10am on the day unless other arrangements are made (musicians should finish rehearsal by 10:00). The organist/pianist will usually play instrumental pieces before and after the service, during the collection, the three congregational hymns from the Christian Science Hymnals and accompany the singer performing the solo. The soloist repertoire draws on classical church vocal music through to contemporary Christian songs and hymns.

Rate. £45 to £70 depending on experience per Sunday service. (The range has been determined having regard to the rates recommended by the Scottish Federation of Organists.)

Sunday services include:

A prelude of about eight to 10 minutes ending at 10:30.

Three congregational hymns chosen by the First Reader in consultation with the musician.

One solo sung by a soloist selected in advance by the Music Committee.

One short offertory of about two minutes.

One postlude of a length of musician's choosing, of about five minutes.

We have a two-manual, tracker-action Mander organ from 1978 which went under substantial tonal revision in 2007 by Wells Kennedy, which included conversion of one stop to a trumpet stop. There are three stops on the upper, "swell" manual and four stops on the lower, great manual, with an additional 16 foot stop for just the pedals. Foot-operated couplers hook the swell manual to the great manual, as well as the two manuals to the pedals. Finally there is a tremulant stop that can be applied to the great. There is no easy control of volume; instead there are folding doors which can be closed to soften the sound of the "swell" manual.

Images of the organ can be seen on Wells Kennedy's facebook post from 3 August 2021 when they visited to tune and repair it.

<https://www.facebook.com/wellskennedyorgans/photos/pcb.4376816525710102/4376805459044542/?type=3&theater>

Former organist, James Cook, produced two CDs called "Less is More", demonstrating that "because of the instrument's quality, integrity and disciplined design" this small organ "is capable of handling a wide range of music". The church is indebted to Mr Cook's advice and experience in revoicing the organ in 2007.

<https://theartstoreonline.co.uk/product/less-is-more-ii/>

Thomas Laing Reilly was another former organist who was well known in Edinburgh organist circles.

In addition to our small organ, we also have a Bechstein upright tucked beside the organ, as well as a Broadwood baby grand piano in the opposite corner of the auditorium. The congregation is equally happy to hear either the organ or the piano, or a mix during the service as suits the music.

[We are also recruiting singers to join the soloist rota at the Sunday service. Please let us know if you are also interested in this opportunity, or pass on the information to others you think might be interested.

Application process: email Fenella Watson at fenella99@hotmail.com and fccs.edinburgh@gmail.com to arrange a time to meet and see the instruments and play to demonstrate your skill. This would be most conveniently done before or after the Wednesday (20:00-21:00) or Sunday (10:30-11:30) services, but let us know if you need an alternative option.



Auditorium. Organ to the left. Upright piano tucked into the cubby just to the right of it. Baby grand piano is to the right of the auditorium out of sight (needs restringing)