



**Merit School of Music
Chicago, Illinois**

Part-time Position Announcement:

Choral Accompanist

Description

Merit School of Music seeks a qualified choral accompanist to work with our Alice S. Pfaelzer Tuition-free Conservatory choirs beginning in January 2022. Accompanists who have strong experience working with vocalists and choirs highly encouraged to apply. Candidates should be available on Saturdays 9:00-11:45 a.m. for choir rehearsals that take place at Merit's West Loop campus (38 S Peoria St). The position may also eventually expand to include accompanist work throughout Merit's other programs.

Merit School of Music is committed to building a world where historically underrepresented groups can attain access to quality music education. Simultaneously, Merit is continually working toward becoming an organization that is truly reflective of the demographics of the city and the students we serve.

Reporting Relationship

The **Choir Accompanist** reports to the **Piano, Voice, & Guitar Program Director**.

Essential Duties

Responsibilities of the **Choir Accompanist** include, but are not limited to:

- **Education-** approx. 90%
 - Deliver choir accompaniment duties commensurate with Merit's curricula, teaching philosophy, mission, and values
 - Work collaboratively with the choir director to create the best possible educational experience for Merit's choral students
 - Assist choir director as needed with student attendance during each rehearsal
 - Be a stable presence for students through consistent preparation and attendance at scheduled rehearsals and performances
- **General Faculty Expectations-** approx. 10%
 - Coordinate with the choir director and program director to execute the choirs' goals
 - Perform at and assist with concerts and other events as needed
 - Act as an ambassador on Merit's behalf to recruit students into programming
 - Secure substitutes from Merit's approved sub list for planned absences and promptly communicate a need for assistance

Personal Skills, Attributes, & Qualifications

- Proven success accompanying choirs and vocalists at various skill levels
- Strong ability to follow the choir director and adapt to requests and needs of the choir
- Uphold Merit's professional code of conduct- be punctual and timely, polite, responsive, collegial, and collaborative

- Be an ambassador for Merit School of Music by representing the organization professionally in all settings and by counseling families and students to pursue their musical studies at the deepest levels
- Flexible and adaptive disposition
- A high level of personal musicianship
- Bachelor's degree in Music or equivalent experience

Schedule

- The Alice S. Pfaelzer Tuition-free Conservatory choirs meet on Saturdays, 9:00-10:00, 10:05-10:35 and 10:40-11:40 through the end of April. Additional time may be required for occasional choir performances.
- Finalists will be invited to choir rehearsals as a trial accompanist on Saturdays throughout the month of January 2022. Finalists will be paid for their time during these trial rehearsals.
- The selected candidate will begin regular work on Saturdays at the end of January/ early February.

Compensation

- \$44 per hour for the rehearsal/performance schedule listed above
- We offer a robust healthcare package** including medical (HMO and PPO options), dental (HMO and PPO), vision care, and long-term disability and voluntary life insurance coverage. Benefits eligibility is contingent upon the number of teaching/accompanist hours worked over a given year (780* teaching hours). 401(k) eligibility is determined by 500 teaching/accompanist hours/ 1,000 administrative hours or a combination of both in your first full year of teaching/accompanying at Merit or in subsequent calendar years.

**Teaching/accompanying hours follow a 2:1 ration wherein a single teaching/accompanying hour counts as two administrative hours for computing benefits eligibility.*

***Further information on our benefits package and employee policies are available upon request.*

How to Apply

To apply, please upload your resume detailing your relevant experience and qualifications for this role [using this link](#). Applicants are encouraged to submit their materials as soon as possible. Materials should be compatible with Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat PDF. Applicants will receive confirmation of receipt of their materials through Airtable and further guidance and updates about the hiring process by email, with interviews provided for finalists.

For more information about Merit School of Music, please visit www.meritmusic.org.

Merit School of Music is committed to enhancing the diversity of our musical community, recognizing that by providing a diverse, equitable, and inclusive learning environment for our students, we are preparing them for personal and professional success in an increasingly multicultural and global society. The Merit community recognizes that it has a responsibility for creating and sustaining a learning and working environment where difference is valued and where equity and inclusion are practiced.