

Montclair Presbyterian Church
5701 Thornhill Drive
Oakland, CA 94611
www.mpcffamily.org

November, 2025

Organist/Accompanist
Job Description

Role Overview

This is a part-time (6-8 hours per week with seasonal fluctuations), non-exempt, salaried position. We are seeking a skilled and passionate Church Organist to join our vibrant community. The Organist provides organ music and accompaniment for weekly worship services and other activities in support of the music ministry of the church. As piano accompanist, the Organist accompanies the MPC Choir and other ensembles. The Organist reports to the Director of Music. Your expertise will not only enrich our services but also foster a deeper connection to our faith and traditions.

Responsibilities

- Serve as Organist. Play for Sunday services (10am), with 1 Sunday off per month, scheduled in collaboration with the Director of Music and the pastoral team.
- Accompany the MPC Choir for Thursday night rehearsals, September through early June, 7-8:30pm, and during Sunday Celebrations, 9-11am.
- Work with the Director of Music and the pastoral team to plan high-quality service music year round.
- Meet regularly with the Director of Music for detailed service planning.
- Serve as backup to Music Director for leading choir rehearsals or directing the Sunday anthem in the rare case of a scheduling conflict or an emergency.
- Oversee the care and maintenance of the organ, in regular communication with Swain & Kates Pipe Organs in San Francisco.
- Be available for weddings, memorial services, and other church-related events as needed. The Organist has the right of first refusal for these events, for which an honorarium is provided.
- Foster a welcoming environment for musicians and congregation members, encouraging participation and engagement.

Qualifications

- Formal training and experience as a church organist
- Advanced piano performance ability in diverse styles: classical, jazz, gospel, etc.
- Experience accompanying adult volunteer choirs
- Familiarity with Protestant liturgical traditions and practices

Soft Skills and Cultural Fit

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to work collaboratively with the MPC staff and congregation
- Strong organizational skills, punctuality, and reliability
- A passion for worship music and a commitment to enhancing the spiritual growth of the congregation
- Flexibility and adaptability

Benefits and Perks

This role offers a competitive compensation package, including:

- Annual salary: \$20,000 per year
- A supportive community environment that values creativity and collaboration
- Practice availability throughout the week on our excellent organ (see attached specifications)
- Opportunity to use the church facility for private studio instruction, in coordination with other scheduled MPC events.

Equal Opportunity Statement

We are committed to diversity and inclusivity within our church community. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis protected by applicable law.

About Montclair Presbyterian Church

MPC is a theologically progressive, politically active, welcoming and inclusive congregation. We describe ourselves as “a community of joyfully imperfect people who welcome all with hospitality, openness and acceptance.” Our Sunday services use the traditional Reformed order of worship and the Presbyterian hymnal *Glory to God*. We sing and celebrate traditional church music, while also expanding our horizons to include music from multicultural, world, and contemporary sources.

Application Process

To apply, please email your cover letter, résumé, and references to our Director of Music, Kim Rankin (kim@mpcfamily.org). Audio and/or video samples of your work are appreciated, but not required. Applications will be reviewed as they are received.

We encourage applicants from all backgrounds and experiences to apply, even if you may not meet all the specified qualifications. Your unique perspectives and talents are welcome in our community.

Montclair Presbyterian Church
Oakland, California

Two Manual and Pedal Pipe Organ
Swain & Kates, c.1958

GREAT (Enclosed)

8 Principal
8 Rohrflöte
8 Gemshorn
8 Gemshorn Celeste
4 Octave
2 Doublette
IV Mixture
8 Trumpet
4 Clarion
Tremolo
Chimes
Gt/Gt 4
Sw/Gt 16
Sw/Gt 8
Sw/Gt 4
Blank

SWELL (Enclosed)

8 Viola
8 Viola Celeste
8 Koppelflöte
4 Principal
4 Koppelflöte
2 2/3 Nazard
2 Piccolo
1 3/5 Tierce
1 1/3 Larigot
V Scharf
8 Oboe
4 Schalmey
Tremolo
Harp (Preparation)
Sw/Sw 16
Unison Off
Sw/Sw 4
Blank

PEDAL (Enclosed)

32 Resultant
16 Subbass
16 Gemshorn
16 Lieblich Gedeckt
8 Koppelflöte
8 Gemshorn
4 Choralbass
16 Trumpet
16 Basson
Gt/Pd 8
Sw/Pd 8
Sw/Pd 4
Blank
Blank