

Old South Organist Job Description - short-term

General information

- Temporary Organist position November 1 through January 31 with the possibility of continuing on a monthly basis thereafter. The position may become permanent pending a congregational study/search.
- Possibility of becoming Organist/Director position, pending study/search
- Part-time, 5-7 hours per week
- Old South Presbyterian is a church of nearly 100 members and is located in the historical community of Newburyport, MA, at 29 Federal St.
- The church has one Sunday service at 10 am every week, all year.
- For this part-time, short-term position, the current remuneration is \$175/week.

Expectations

- High level of proficiency in keyboard instruments. ***Primary performance instrument is an E & G G Hook tracker pipe organ, 2 manuals, 23 ranks, 56 note keyboard compass and 25 note flat pedal board. Ratchet swell on the right. Organ is in the rear gallery. Steinway grand piano also frequently used, and is located at front of sanctuary.***
- Sight reading and ability to follow direction
- Familiarity with the flow of Protestant worship services.
- Comfortable with eclectic mix of musical styles and genres, with an emphasis on “traditional” hymns and anthems
- Ability to accompany singing groups or soloists, and participate with musical ensembles
- Accompany/support congregational singing during worship services.
- Coordinate and collaborate with lay and staff leaders in worship and music, especially with the pastor who is preaching. Offer suggested hymns when asked.
- Choose prelude, postlude, offertory, and communion music for worship services that are appropriate to the message and tone of the service.
- Provide music/accompaniment for additional services such as Christmas Eve (NOT Christmas Day... unless it falls on a Sunday) or other liturgical days. Occasional additional duties/services may arise (funerals/weddings), which will be negotiated in advance.
- Approach the position from the perspective of a worship leader, rather than a performer.
- Pre-service rehearsal with musicians (when applicable) each week

Compensation and Benefits

- Long-term salary - if hired for this later - would be commensurate with experience and education, minimum of 3-5 years experience preferred
- Inquire and/or send letter of introduction and resume with two professional references to: Carol Furneaux: CarolFurneaux4@gmail.com

Please note: Final applicants will be required to audition

Photos, history, and description of the instrument





The Organ at Old South

E. and G.G. Hook was a pipe organ designing and manufacturing company, located in Boston, Massachusetts, which operated from 1827 to 1935. It was started, and originally run, by brothers Elias and George Greenleaf Hook.

The Hook brothers were sons of a cabinet maker in Salem, Massachusetts where they apprenticed with the organ builder William Goodrich. They moved to Boston in 1832 and began producing larger organs. In 1845 they produced their first concert hall organ in the Tremont Temple in Boston which later burned.[1]

When the Hook brothers were getting ready to retire, in 1871, Frank Hastings joined the firm, at which point the name was changed to E. and G.G. Hook & Hastings. When the Hook brothers retired (in 1881), the name was shortened to Hook and Hastings. In its day, Hook was the premier organ building company in the United States.

The Hook firm built over 2,000 pipe organs, many of which are still extant today. Some remain in unaltered, original condition, such as the three-manual instrument at First Unitarian Church in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts; others have been tonally and/or physically altered due to changing trends in the organ world during the 20th century.

Hook & Hastings Co. closed its doors in 1935, a victim of changing times and the Depression. In its 108 years of operation in both Boston and Weston, E. and G.G. Hook and Hook & Hastings produced an estimated 2,614 organs ranging in size from eight to 80 feet.

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This organ, dedicated in October 1866, is the third for this building. The organ, which is intact and original, was carefully restored by the Andover Organ Co. in 1974, under the supervision of Robert Newton. It is still conetuned, and is tuned a bit sharp. An unusual feature are the two "thunder pedals" at the left of the Pedal board. They operate two extra pipes (A# and B below low C) of the Double Open Diapason 16'.

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Great

- 16' Bourdon Treble
- 16' Bourdon Bass
- 8' Open Diapason
- 8' Keraulophon Treble
- 8' Keraulophon Bass
- 8' Viol da Gamba (TC)
- 8' Melodia (TC)

8' Stopped Diapason Bass
4' Octave
4' Flute Harmonique
2 2/3' Twelfth
2' Fifteenth
II Mixture
8' Trumpet Treble
8' Trumpet Bass
8' Krum Horn (TC)

Pedal

16' Double Open Diapason
16' Double Stopped Diapason
Pedal Check
Two "thunder Pedals"

Swell

8' Open Diapason
8' Aeolina (TC)
8' Stopped Diapason Treble
8' Stopped Diapason Bass
4' Violina
4' Flauto Traverso
2' Piccolo
8' Oboe (TC)
8' Bassoon (bass)
8' Clarinet (TC)
Tremulant

Couplers

Swell to Great
Great to Pedale
Swell to Pedale

Two unlabeled pedals
(Gr. piano and forte)
Ratchet Swell pedal
with built-in release
mechanical action

References:

1. Bush, Douglas Earl, and Richard Kassel. *The organ: an encyclopedia*. New York: Routledge, 2006. 259. Print.
2. Fox, Pamela W (June 2002). [*Farm Town to Suburb: The History and Architecture of Weston, Massachusetts, 1830-1980*](#). Weston MA: Love Lane Press. p. 677. [ISBN 978-1-931807-01-2](#).

3. Carew, Paul (1934). *The Story of a Mother Church*. Orange, NH: Rt.Rev.Mgr.Paul T. Carew, M.R.m Ph.D. pp. 18–105.
4. ["OHS Database entry"](#). Organ Historical Society.
5. Van Pelt, William (1991). *The Hook Opus List, 1829-1916 in Facsimile with a Compiled List of Organs 1916-1935 and Facsimiles of Promotional Publications*. Richmond, Virginia: The Organ Historical Society. [ISBN 0-913499-07-2](#).
6. ["OHS Pipe Organ Database"](#). Organ Historical Society.