

The First Baptist Church

MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS



The Rev. Matthew R. Rasure, Minister



The First Baptist Church of Medford, with generous support from the Boston Baptist Social Union, is delighted to announce the creation of a **Choral Fellows and Scholars Program** designed to promote appreciation and love for traditional sacred music and to cultivate a new generation of outstanding choir leaders in service to the Church

The *CFS Program* supports the integral work of the parish choir, and at its core it has two components:

1. Intensive one-to-one technical training in musicianship, vocal production, diction, musical interpretation, and the range of traditional liturgical music.
2. Regular implementation of the technical training in a live lab of singers; namely, the church choir.

MORE INFORMATION: www.firstbaptistchurchmedford.org/cfsprogram

APPLY NOW: <https://goo.gl/forms/gqg11bOKhz6H5jgj1>

ROLLING ADMISSION WITH AUDITIONS STARTING EARLY MAY 2019

34 Oakland Street, Medford, Massachusetts 02155

(781) 396-3811

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www.firstbaptistchurchmedford.org

The (2) **Choral Fellows** are on analogy to what some choirs have called “soloists,” “section leaders,” or “ringers” with a decidedly educational focus. Each **Choral Fellow** will be offered a **CF Stipend**, and will be assigned two Choral Scholars to mentor in the choir, and to whom they will give three 1-hour voice lessons per month for the duration of the program.

The ideal candidates would be advanced conservatory/music students or graduates, who, in addition to having demonstrated technical skills, also have interest in developing their skills as teachers and vocal coaches. They will be chosen according to their voice range: high (soprano/alto) or low (tenor/bass/baritone).

The (4) **Choral Scholars** might be called “soloists-in-training.” The **Choral Scholars** will be offered a modest **CS Stipend** to defray incidental expenses, and in return for their service to the choir will receive private voice instruction at least twice a month from their assigned Choral Fellow and from the **CFS Director**, Ms. Gina Picerno.

The ideal candidates would be promising students in college or beginning conservatory (exceptional candidates from high school may also apply) who wish to receive high quality vocal training and to immerse themselves in the literature of traditional choral music. They will be chosen according to their voice range: high (soprano/alto) or low (tenor/bass/baritone).

The Choral Fellows and Scholars will also provide support and encouragement to the volunteers in the church choir through their regular participation in this “live-lab” of singers.

SCHEDULE

The program year roughly follows the Academic Year and runs from the 2nd Sunday of September to the 1st Sunday of June. This entails approximately 38 Sundays. Participation in a minimum of 28 Sundays and the Spring and Fall performances is mandatory for the CFS program. A non-comprehensive list of mandatory and optional days includes:

2nd Sunday in September (mandatory)
1st Sunday in November (mandatory)
Palm Sunday (mandatory)
Easter Sunday (mandatory)
1st Sunday in June (mandatory)
All 5th Sundays are optional

Approval of the Sundays to be missed must be granted by director of the CFS program, Ms. Gina Picerno.

STIPENDS

The **Choral Fellows** will receive a yearly stipend of \$3600.

Roughly, this breaks down to:

$\$75 \times 30 \text{ mandatory events} = \2250

$\$50 \times 27 \text{ lessons (3 per month, 9 months)} = \1350

The **Choral Scholars** will receive 1-to-1 lessons, 1-to-2 lessons, and group coaching valued at over \$1500 *in kind*. In addition, they will receive a yearly stipend of \$200 to defray costs of travel, sheet music, and other expenses.

REHEARSALS AND EXPECTATIONS

The Choir rehearses twice a week:

Thursdays, 7:30–9:00PM

Sundays, 10:00–10:30AM

Participants in the CFS program must attend Sunday 10AM rehearsals on all days they sing, and a minimum of 2 Thursday rehearsals per month.

Approval of the rehearsals to be missed must be granted by director of the CFS program, Ms. Gina Picerno.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Prepared song or aria in the classical style (accompanist provided)

Sight-singing to include a hymn and passages from choral works

Vocalizations at the discretion of the audition panel

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