

Contact Information

Director of Music

Danica A. Buckley

Music Committee 2006-2007

Amy Donahue, Chair

Jan Childs

Charlene Conrad

Please feel to contact any member of the Music Committee with any questions or suggestions you have.

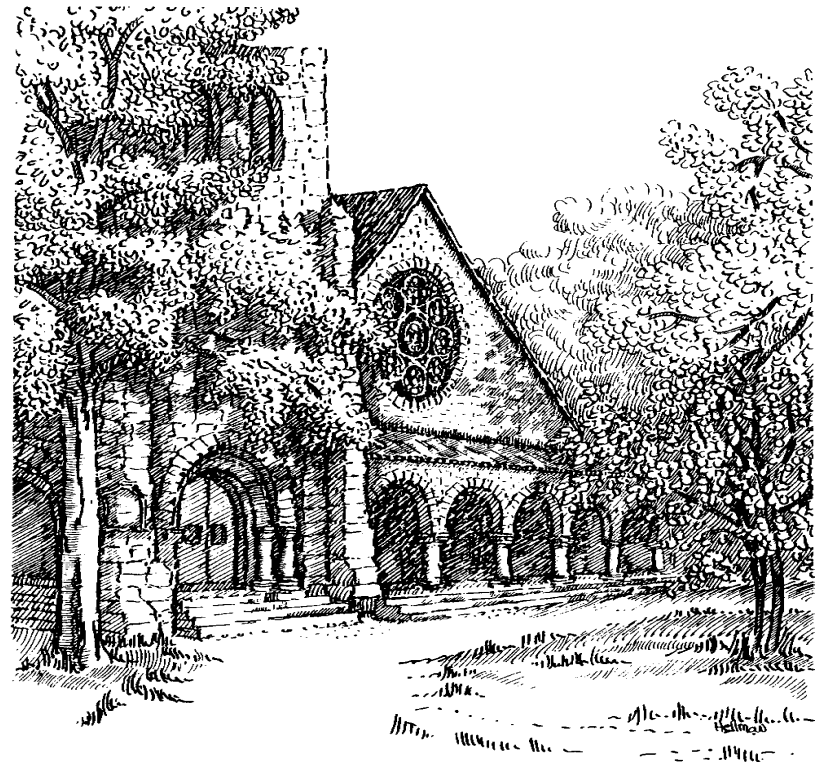
First Parish in Brookline

382 Walnut Street
Brookline, MA 02445
(617) 566-1933

First Parish in Brookline

CHOIR GUIDE

Director: Danica A. Buckley



Repertoire

In keeping with our broad UU vision, the First Parish Choir sings a wide range of music from all corners of the world. For example, we have recently sung:

Alleluia (Randall Thompson)

Siyumba (Traditional African)

Verleih uns Frieden (Mendelssohn)

Hashiveinu (Traditional Hebrew)

Sicut Cervus (Palestrina)

My Lord, What a Morning (Traditional American)

It Don't Mean a Thing (Ellington)

Departure (Mendelssohn)

Find a Stillness (Traditional Transylvanian)

Holy Holy Holy (Schubert)

Queen's Prayer (Queen Liliuokalani)

Lift Every Voice and Sing (Johnson)

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need (Virgil Thomson)

O God in Thy Mysterious Presence (Ross)

No Mirrors (Barnwell)

Set Me As a Seal (Clausen)

Teach Me, Oh Lord (Attwood)

Ubi Caritas (Duruflé)

Oh, Light Everlasting (Christensen)

Choose Something Like a Star (Randall Thompson)

- Return music to the piano in the sanctuary on Sunday morning or to the piano in Lyon Chapel during Wednesday rehearsals.
- Please do not store anything other than music in the folders. If they get too full, the binding breaks. And extra papers make it difficult for the Director to add to and clear out the folders in advance of rehearsals.

Cooperative Tasks

- The Choir does not have a paid assistant or librarian, so each Choir member is asked to pitch in from time to time to help with music sorting, music storage, database management, and the like. Please listen for announcements of “help needed” and volunteer eagerly.

The Choir at First Parish is open to all who want to raise their voice in the spirit of love and community. Auditions are not necessary. While we have several paid section leaders, the great majority of singers are church community members and friends, with a wide range of musical backgrounds and experience.

If you're interested in joining the choir, please speak with the Director. The ability to read music is a great asset, although a quick ear can sometimes substitute for this skill. Singers are expected to be able to match pitch most of the time. Not sure of your abilities or what part to sing? The Director can help with all of this and promises to keep it painless and fun.

Services

- The Choir sings at virtually every worship service (Sundays at 11am) from September to June. Exceptions will be announced in advance.
- The Choir is part of the music ministry of the church. From time to time, it is also asked to sing for other church events: special services, funerals, memorial services, etc. Participation is encouraged but optional.

Rehearsals

- Rehearsals are on Wednesdays 7:30-9pm (Lyon Chapel) and Sundays 9:30-10:30am (sanctuary). There may be extra rehearsals, or slightly extended rehearsals, called in advance, at holiday times or for special services.

- Rehearsals begin very promptly. Please arrive a few minutes early for both rehearsals so you have enough time to pick up your new music, return old music, and be ready to sing at the beginning of the rehearsal period.
- Regular attendance is encouraged, although we recognize that absences may be necessary, either for blocks of time or irregularly throughout the year. If you will have to miss a rehearsal or service, please let the Director know as soon as possible. In addition, write your name on the calendar on the piano. The Director chooses repertoire to match the available voices, so please give as much advance notice as possible.
- From time to time, you may have to miss a Wednesday rehearsal but would be available for Sunday morning. Take a look at the music and if you feel comfortable singing on that Sunday, please join us at 9:30 rehearsal and 11am service.
- At the Director's discretion, under certain circumstances some singers will be given permission regularly to skip Wednesday night rehearsals. These people are typically excellent music readers, have polished vocal skill, and have a bona fide conflict that prevents them from attending on Wednesday nights. If you think you may fit these criteria and would like to sing with us on Sunday mornings, please speak to the Director.

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Attire

- The First Parish Choir does not wear choir robes or any particular attire. However, as we do sit and perform at the front of the sanctuary, we ask that members dress in a way that reflects well on our congregation.
- For special services, the Choir wears white tops and black bottoms with occasional seasonal colors added.

Communication

- Be sure to sign up for the choir e-mail list through the church. See the Director for instructions on how to subscribe.
- Also be sure to give your name and contact information to the head of the Music Committee, who keeps a Choir database. If you move, please update the information.

Music

- You will be assigned a Folder Number. When picking up new music, look for a copy that already has your number on it. If there is no copy with your number, pick a blank copy and write your number on the upper right-hand corner.
- Make all marks in pencil on your copy.