

Music at St. James Annual Report 1-9-22

Throughout 2021, the St. James Choir sang for both the 9 and 11 AM services each week, even in the summer. Our choir members are devoted to the music ministry here at St. James. Not only do they rehearse for and serve on Sunday mornings, but they also prepare music for special services. They prepared the Durufle Requiem for November, Advent Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve music for December. We have gained a few new choir members and have regained a few who were on sabbatical. We can barely fit all of us in the choir loft sometimes. This is a great challenge to have.

In April, Helen Rodgers became a part time employee.

St. James was fortunate to add the musically, multi-faceted Mary Katherine Kilgore to our staff in June as Associate Director of Music for the church and Music Director for the school. With the fast growth of the St. James School, the timing could not be more perfect. She hit the ground running as the first two weeks with us were spent in Birmingham, Alabama at Samford University where she earned her Level One Orff Certification. St. James purchased a set of Orff metallophones and xylophones to be used with the school. As Music Director of the school, Mary Katherine spends 11-13 hours each week preparing for and teaching seven music classes, leading music for weekly chapel services and special school presentations. The Orff music training and music curriculum Mary Katherine is using to teach her classes makes the music program at St. James School unique in the area. As choir director, Mary Katherine has been able to infuse new energy and intensity for our steadfast Adult Choir, restart the Canterbury Choir (grades 3 – 6) and begin a choir for grades K-2, the Whitby Choir!

The Men's Compline Singers continued to present a service each third Sunday evening, except for October, where a Taizé service was offered in the chapel. I would encourage every member of St. James to attend Compline to experience a fresh and powerful way to pray.

The St. James Concert Series featured concerts in April and October as well as the Durufle Requiem for our All Saints Celebration November 7, 2021 at the 9am and 11 am worship services.

Mary Katherine and Helen are very ably assisted by Frank Stabler, who wears many hats. A few tasks that Frank continues to take care of are, copyright information for our live streamed worship services, maintaining the music library, setting up and taking down our rehearsal space, coordinating the choir for processional and recessional hymns, and much, much more! Frank plays a major role with the Compline service by being cantor and rehearsing the men when needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen V. Rodgers
Director of Music