

Christopher Rocco Prestia

Mission Statement

The purpose that God has placed in my heart for my life is to make music, both to glorify Him and minister to others, while actively continuing to build my skills and experience as a church musician to become as accomplished at my art as possible.

Present Objective

My objective is to obtain a position at a church as an organist, choir director, and director of any other music programs available (a handbell choir, music outreach, etc).

Long-Term Objectives

My ultimate goal in life is to be a full time minister of music at a church, but more importantly to spread my love of music to others. My plan of reaching these goals is to take things one step at a time. My first church, Hamburg Baptist Church, was a good starting place. They helped me find my passion and purpose, as well as acquainted me with the organ and the art of congregational hymn accompaniment. Now it is time for me to move on to a church where I can further deepen my knowledge and experience in choral directing, hymn playing, and music ministry in an environment more suited to this experience. If I were to receive this position, I would accommodate my college choice so that the location would allow me to continue playing here through college. Montclair State University is my most likely option at this time. This would be where I would receive most of my classical training in organ and a teaching certificate. After that I am very interested in a graduate program at Yale University for Organ and Sacred Music. There I could specifically focus more on sacred music and round out my education. If I don't find a suitable full time position in music ministry after my graduation, I plan on teaching at a public school and spreading my love of music to the new generation during which I can still have a part time organist/music minister position at a smaller church. From there, when I can retire from teaching at school, I make plans to achieve my ultimate goal of full-time music ministry.

Related Experience and Honors

Fall 2005-Present

Student of John Baratta on organ and piano. John Baratta is a personal mentor, music director of First Presbyterian Church of Newton and a member of the American Guild of Organists and the American Theatre Organ Society.

November 2004-Present	Organist of Hamburg Baptist Church Hamburg, NJ. As organist, responsibility is held for choosing service music, assisting with hymn selection, weekly choir rehearsals, hymn sings, and special events/services.
Fall 2004-Present	Bassoonist and Organist in High Point Regional High School concert band. Planned to be drum major fall 2007
Summer 2006	Attended a six week summer program at Interlochen Center for the Arts with a major in organ and minor in composition, instructed by Tom Bara
Summer 2005	Attended Strings International Music Festival summer program, an intensive two week session of private lessons, orchestra rehearsals, master classes, and a grand finale gala to conclude. Program facilitated by members of the Philadelphia Orchestra.
Spring 2005	Recipient of Band achievement award
Summer 2004	Attended Strings International Music Festival
Winter 2004-January 2006	Student of Yosif Feigelson on cello
Fall 2003-Spring 2004	Assistant principal cellist in Sussex County Youth Orchestra
Summer 2003	Attended Strings International Music Festival
Summer 2003-late Fall 2003	Student of Gloria DePasquale of the Philadelphia Orchestra on cello
Spring 2003	Recipient of Orchestra Achievement award
Fall 2002-Spring 2003	Principal cellist in Jackson Technology Center advanced orchestra
Fall 2002-Spring 2003	Student of Katie Rubkie on cello
Summer 2002	Attended Strings International Music Festival
Spring 2002	Recipient of Orchestra achievement award
Fall 2001-Spring 2002	Principal cellist in Jackson Technology Center beginning orchestra
1996-2002	Student of Kathy Pratt on piano