

Introduction

The rationale for the survey was communicated to parishioners through the weekly parish bulletin and at weekly services in late February 2020 and was opened on-line (through Survey Monkey) on March 4th. The first response was submitted on March 4th and the most recent response was submitted on April 7th. 100 survey responses were submitted, of which 95 were on-line. A review of survey responses suggested that a minimal number (i.e., 2) were duplications, and these responses were not “removed” from the data-set.

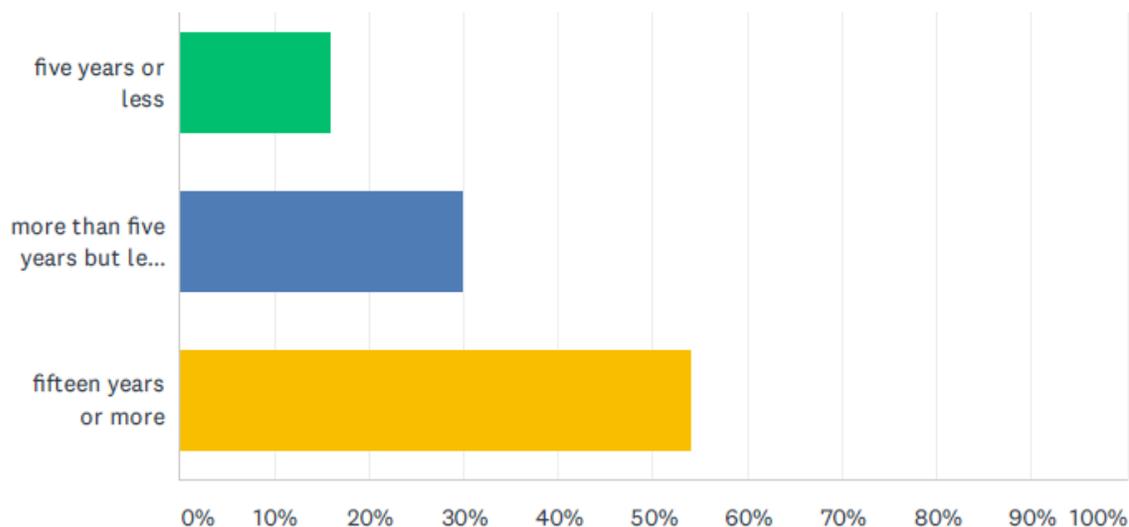
Responses

A complete listing of responses by survey question is provided in the document Music Director Survey – Complete Responses – April 21 2020.pdf. Note: Personal and identifying information has been removed from this document.

Analysis of Responses

Demographics (Q.1 and Q.2)

While the participation in the survey reflects input from parishioners who have been members of the parish for some time, as well as more recent additions, without some understanding of parish demographics it is impossible to tell how well the general breakdown (54% : 30% : 16%) reflects the overall parish.



Overall, 72% of respondents indicated that their households had no children living in the home, a feature that was relatively consistent regardless of how long respondents had been parishioners. [5 years or less – 69%, >5 years but <15 years – 73% and >15 years – 72%.]

Of the households with children, 13 (or 46%) included children over 18 years of age only, while 15 included children 18 years and younger. Given that some households submitted more than one survey response, households with children may be even over-represented in the survey results.

Service Attendance (Q.3)

97 respondents identified that they attended one or more service on a regular basis (i.e., identified a service they attended mostly). As this was a survey aligned with music programs at the Church, not surprisingly, the majority of respondents identified that they attended the 11:00 (46) or 9:15 (43) services, while the 8:00 (5) and Thursday (3) services had fewer respondents.

Respondents also indicated that 30 never attended the 8:00 service, 8 never attended the 9:15 service and 10 never attended the 11:00 service.

An interesting finding, was that attendance at the services with music (i.e., 9:15 and 11:00) was relatively balanced regardless of how long respondents had attended the parish.

Importance of Music (Q.4)

Again, as the survey was aligned with Church music programs, it is not surprising that 87% of respondents indicated that music is important to their personal worship experience. What is surprising (and a potential opportunity...then again I might be biased!), is that all 16 respondents who attend the 8:00 service also indicated that music was important to them.

59 respondents provided greater insight into their response, which largely fell into the following feelings that "Music..":

- Is uplifting, moving, engaging and glorifying
- Is joyful
- Is inspirational
- Helps active worship and praise
- Helps provide a connection to God
- Help sets a tone and mood
- Makes worship more than words

Participation in Choirs (Q.5)

While many respondents (40) indicated current or previous involvement with the three parish choirs (St. Peter's Singers, Parish Choir and Handbell Choir) the importance of music to a parishioner's worship experience is obviously much more than choir membership. Of the 67 respondents who attend the 9:15 service, 40 (60%) have no choir affiliation, while of the 64 respondents who attend the 11:00 service, 31 (48%) had no choir affiliation.

Music Program Characteristics (Q.6)

Respondents were asked to identify how important a variety (19) of different music program characteristics were to them. To help identify the most important features to all respondents, each characteristic was ranked by normalized importance score (calculated by subtracting the number of “4” and “5” votes from the number of “1” and “2” votes for each characteristic).

Based on this approach, the most important characteristics are:

1. Has a well developed choir program to provide choral music for Church services. (Normalized score 80).
2. Recognizes the importance of the Church organ in leading and supporting St. Peter's musical ministry. (Normalized score 76).
3. Music in Church services emphasizes familiar hymns/music. (Normalized score 63).
4. Includes concerts and events for specific Church festivals (e.g., Lent and Christmas). (Normalized score 59).

Participation in musical events (Q.7)

While nearly 40% of respondents identified that none of the potential musical offerings were compelling enough to attract their further participation, respondents ranked options as follows:

1. Regular (e.g., annual) musical productions – 24
2. Parish Choir – 15 (including 7 previous members)
3. A children's choir for children 7 – 11 years old – 14

Important music program attributes and/or participation incentives (Q.8)

38 participants provided additional insight into program attributes that are important to them or would encourage participation, that could generally be collected into the following areas:

- Participation as member of audience
- Building kids music and programs
- Encouraging participation even those shy and/or nervous
- Building camaraderie / friendships
- Rotating schedule of instrumental music with choirs
- Balancing performance with worship
- Balancing different forms of music

Barriers to participation (Q.9)

Respondents were asked to identify any barriers that might be preventing them from participating in various Church musical programs. Many of the 36 insights can generally be collected into the following (perceived) impediments:

- Musical (in)-ability? (voice, reading music etc.)
- Time
- Children
- Age
- Understanding requirements.

Memorable Music experience at St. Peter's (Q.10)

Respondents shared some of their memorable music experiences at St. Peter's, and many of the 63 insights can generally be collected into the following:

- Christmas
- Oscar Petersen's "Hymn to Glory"
- Handbells
- Last Night at the Proms
- Oliver! / Messiah / Joseph
- Psalm Sunday

Additional commentary (Q.11)

59 respondents provided additional insight with respect to Church music programs, guidance for the new Music Director etc. These insights included qualities that the new Music Director should possess, the types of music programs that the Church should present and the importance of the organ to the Church.

Representative (and competing) requirements include:

- "able to play and teach different Christian music styles, e.g., sacramental music, taize, black spiritual, gospel music etc."
- "Having some lessons for children about music and to learn new instrumentation at church."
- "New Director of music should have interest and experience working with new music styles and all ages of singers, performers etc."
- "The Anglican music tradition may need to change to attract and keep parishioners."
- "Approach, team player, spiritual, sensitive, willing to work with all ages, adaptable, sensitive to needs of the parish."
- "The new director must be fully comfortable with both the 9:15 and 11:00 types of music with a good grasp of the Anglican liturgy and choose music appropriate for the Sunday's readings."
- "The church has a beautiful organ so please keep it as a focal point of services."
- "be friendly, flexible and able to take criticism."