What is the role of the Church Musician?

Growing in your relationship with the Lord and others in the body of Christ.

As an active member of the Worship Ministry family; *a.k.a. The Worship Choir, The Worship (Praise) Team, The Worship Band, The Worship Tech Team, The Creative Team members*, your relationship with God is the true gravitational center of everything you and we DO, before we do the second thing – SERVE.

Remember - We serve. First, we serve (minister to) God and then we serve (minister to) others. *You were CREATED to WORSHIP. You were created to give.*

Your personal relationship should have or should be transforming your life in such a way that you reflect and radiate God's goodness in your life in your speech, love for one another, attention to the actions or changes needed (ministry). Everything flows from your relationship with Jesus Christ.

How to grow closer to the Lord?

- Know that God desires a relationship with you!
- Speak with God.
- Read is Word. The book of Psalms is a good place to start.
- Be involved in a faith-giving small group in the church.

Present for Worship

A lively and growing choir is an indication of vibrancy and spiritual health in the church. The ministry of presents is real! Sometimes we all may

feel like today is not the day for me. Your part of a family and your role is important. Even if you have ½ a voice, come to rehearsal and learn, mark your music, hear the questions and the answers so that you have not lost ground. It is about more than just your voice that is engaged in a rehearsal.

I like to say, Body, Mind, Spirit and Voice. There are 4 foundations to the Worship Leaders' role.

BODY – PRESENT! *You make that much of a difference. The ministry of presents (every member present, ministered to and ministering to others) is real! You WILL receive a blessing as you come to engage (bless) others.*

It's true! A lively worship experience and a growing choir is an indication of vibrancy and spiritual health in the church.

<u>Steps to success:</u>

1) *Pray for the choir. Pray for a choir member by name each week!*
2) *We ask that you eliminate other commitments or involvements on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.*
3) *Work to wrap up things at work or home in a way that allows you time to be at rehearsal, engaged with others before 7:00 o'clock.*
4) *Speak with one new person each week to develop a strong web of friendship and empathy.*

<u>Sunday morning worship:</u>

Regular, punctual attendance at worship is a must. Meet in the choir or music room, at least 15 minutes before the service begins, so that you and your fellow musicians can go over the music, any changes, pray and enter the sanctuary together.

Beyond Sunday Morning

Your music ministry involves more than Sunday morning worship. Musicians are typically expected at Nights of Worship, Christmas, Easter or other holiday events. Musicians or worship teams may work to develop musical mission opportunities and present at community gatherings and festivals.

Music Practice

As discussed, faithfully observe your church's rehearsal schedule.

Occasionally there will be rehearsal tracks, links, or YouTube videos provided to assist with learning. Please use these tools.

During special seasons, such as Christmas, we may have a retreat or a special practice. Your church may expect you to devote personal time to practicing the music for the service or your general musical skills.

Practical *(Nuts and bolts)*

1) A choir BOX or slot will be assigned to you. Carol Wilcox takes care of us in many ways! She will help you and print a label with your name on it.
2) We use a two-folder system.
    i) Black folder is for Sunday services.
    ii) The white folder is for upcoming music.
3) Each week there is a flow sheet. On Wednesdays, it is a DRAFT of the service. Just before the service on Sunday mornings, it is the service flow sheet which is used by every member of the Engage Team. (Greeters, Welcome, Security, Tech, Band, Choir, Pastoral Team, etc.) Many necessary changes take place between Wednesday night and Sunday morning on the Flow Sheet.

4) After church, PLEASE take your music out of your black folder and separate it out on the table in the back of the choir room. These are filed on Tuesday by Carol. When music straggles in this makes a big job far bigger.

You may be asking . . . *yes, but what do we do?*

Music Ministry to the Family of God

1. The Worship Teams (Choir, Praise, Band) Enliven the Congregation's Song.

Without a congregation, there could not be a church choir! We would be known as a community choir.

Why is it important that the congregation's song be supported, instead of just focusing on the church choir's musical success? We become what we sing. Choral musicians know this. When we take words and put them to music, it becomes part of who we are. Therefore, it becomes imperative that we put as much of the Word into the congregation as possible. *If the congregation can sing it, but we don't let them, we miss an opportunity to transform people's lives in the most direct way possible*. By giving the congregation new singing skills and confidence, we empower them for the rest of their lives to better embody God's Word through music.

"*The reason that we work so hard to create beautiful music together is so that we can glorify God and help people experience a holy moment*."

Taking our cue from the great church musician John Ferguson, it is important to view the congregation as the "big choir," and the church choir as the "little choir," or as I like to think of it, my chamber group. I often utilize my choir as "section leaders," positioning them around the

congregation strategically to support the parts that I'm teaching for a congregational hymn or song. I have the choir stand in front of the congregation to lead them in rounds and canons. They become active leaders in building up the congregation's song. By doing this, the congregation is prepared for discipleship through the soul-embracing power of song.

2. The church choir sings music as an outreach ministry.

By presenting the music in the context of the service the Worship Choir broadens the congregation's experience of the divine and by working to present music which is thematic or seasonal focused as an outreach to the community builds memories, increase musicianship, encourages others to join the ministry, but most importantly, we can introduce Christ to people through the tool of music.

This can be done seasonally, in concerts, for special occasions, community events, and with added drama, tech, etc.

"The reason that we work so hard to create beautiful music together is so that we can glorify God and help people experience a holy moment."

3. The church choir serves as a small group within the church for faith formation.

When we sing together, a bond is created that unites us unlike any other activity. In a church setting, this function can be intentionally formed and nurtured. Because we meet once a week to do work for the Glory of God and benefit of others, taking care of each other is no longer an option; it quickly becomes a joy filled expression of love from one friend to another and a holy responsibility.

4. The church choir sings beautiful and challenging music to praise God and edify the congregation.

This is where the majority of our rehearsal time is focused. It is important that when we sing, we sing beautifully, because it touches people's souls. The reason that we work so hard to create beautiful music together is so that we can glorify God and help people experience a holy moment.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, it is important that our singing is harmonious and accurate as it can be distracting to the congregation and to other members serving in the choir.

"This is a moment where we can touch someone and help them have a moment with God." Reminding the choir that musical details can make the difference in someone's spiritual life goes a long way to power through tough rehearsal moments.

In Conclusion

Thank you for answering the call to be part of a vital small group and use your talents and build skills which connect people to the Lord and deepen their relationship with God.

A Worship Choir member's job is not just to sing beautifully, but rather it is to minister to the congregation and to each other in a variety of ways, helping to change the world into a more loving and peaceful place.