

FOR WORSHIP PROMPTERS

What are we asking of you?



1. Since we exist to praise and worship the King of Kings, you need to know and experience salvation through faith in Jesus. We're His kids, singing to our Father.
2. While we work to excel, performance for the sake of performance doesn't carry much weight in heaven.
3. For us to work together well and be the best we can, your regular attendance at rehearsals is important. We seek people who are willing to become part of the team.
4. Worship choir is for 7th grade or older.
 - Young teens need to be willing and have ability to interact meaningfully with adult level music, including attentive participation in extended rehearsal times.
 - We may limit participation, based on the individual maturity of the voice, to avoid strain and harm to young vocal chords.
5. Your ability to read music is a plus. If you don't, you at least need this basic ability: to carry a melody and a part in tune with others (voice and ear capability). If your understanding is very basic and you join the choir, you agree to take advantage of ear training and sight singing training, which may be offered at announced times. *
6. You see your participation as contributing not only to the worship of the LORD, but as ministry to one another. You are mature and humble enough to submit to a "family" where we learn from and support one another. The music is an outgrowth of relationship. You are committing yourself to the others in the group. We are available to one another and we are "in this together". You need each member and each member needs you. We belong to one another and are less than we could be without you.

(The stronger or more accomplished will help and encourage those who are at an earlier stage of learning, while the newer members tend to bring a fresh joy and eagerness with them.)
7. You see your commitment being:
 - To worship the Lord wholeheartedly.
 - Primarily giving, rather than receiving. You are giving yourself in ministry to the Lord and to the others in the group.

* You do not have to be a great singer. And many people sing well without being able to read notes. We just want to help you be able to read notes, because you will find music participation much more satisfying that way. We have had instances of people who "couldn't" sing, who took some training, and now are using their voice in praise!

MUSIC AND WORSHIP PHILOSOPHY

KEN ROSENTRATER

- It is "not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit", says the Lord. We sing and play because HE is good, not because we are good. Success is not in our great music, but in learning to be servants.
- Singers and players are not stars. Jesus is the Star. If someone seems eager to sing a solo, what is the motive? Faithfulness, availability, a teachable spirit, and servant-hood go much further than raw talent does. Our motives need periodic re-examination.
- I believe in team ministry. Expression of worship is as much a shared work of the Body, needing various gifts, as is any other. We need each other. Rehearsal is more than technique. It is discipleship, relationship building, and caring. Prayer is foundational.
- I do not use only the most obviously talented or most "known" musicians in lead or solo roles. I seek to develop and increase the ministry of others as well.
- The Church seems sometimes easily satisfied with being entertained. Think of a corporate worship celebration in the context of a stage play: the leaders are the prompters, the people in the congregation are the worshippers, and God is the Audience.
- Each singer and songwriter should have the freedom to express his love to our God in ways true to his personality and true to the Scripture. There is more room for variety and diversity in God's mind than there is in the broadest of our own. We learn and grow by being stretched. (We will probably sing some styles of music that are not your preference.)
- Any type of expression or practice in worship can become trendy, faddish, or traditional—even what is not generally considered traditional. Raising of hands or clapping (both Scriptural ways to express worship) can become meaningless habit or ritual just as surely as reciting Latin can.
- Worship is how we live seven days a week. What happens or doesn't happen in the celebration service is an expression of what is already in the heart and what has been lived out in the previous six days. Worship is far more than words and musical notes. Clean hands and a pure heart (Psalm 15 and 24) are the essence of worship. Music is just one expression. While music may not be the whole of worship, it was designed for that purpose, is highly conducive to worship, and in most cases probably is expressing some kind of worship.
- God is using many people today, just as He has in all ages, to write fresh music of praise and worship that is Scripturally sound. As in all times, some of today's music is not all that good. Neither is some of yesterday's. Many hymns are tested and true, but others' theology may have deficiencies. Remember that "the old hymns" are actually recent innovations in church history.
- In other words: just because it's old doesn't mean it's bad; just because it's new doesn't mean it's good. The corollary: just because it's old doesn't mean it's good; just because it's new doesn't mean it's bad. A song in a style other than my preferred isn't for that reason bad. Each song should be judged according to Scripture and to its own merit.

