

Worship Team Guidelines

South Side Church of Christ

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Welcome

I am so glad that you are interested in serving in the worship ministry team! We are called to live a life of worship and that transcends more than just music, and is more about giving our whole selves to God (Rom 12:1-2). With that being said, music is one great way to express worship, especially in a community of other believers. Because music also paints us a ‘picture’ of what worship is, it is important to give God our best. The best way that I’ve found to do that is to communicate, be organized and set expectations. This document is a set of guidelines that will help us as a team to make a commitment to give our best!

General Worship Team Expectations:

SPIRITUAL EXPECTATIONS:

KNOW

We expect each team member has accepted Jesus as Savior, has made this commitment public through baptism and has a personal ongoing relationship with Him.

GROW

Each member is expected to be a member of South Side, regularly attend weekly worship services (not just when scheduled on the team) and to seek God daily through personal Bible study and worship times. In order to LEAD the people of South Side in Worship each week, we all should strive to seek God every day as we worship Him with our lives.

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GO

As a follower of Christ, we should want to share Him with those we encounter each day. We expect team members to be an example for Christ in their words and actions. Worship team members are expected to live a lifestyle that is above reproach, avoiding even the appearance of evil. (1 Tim 3). Being a leader, who is up front, adds extra responsibilities because people see us as examples of what a Christian should be like. Therefore, it is imperative that we consider the way we treat each other and carefully guard our hearts from impurities and pride.

It is God's desire and our desire to see our worship team members living a victorious Christian life, free from bondage. If there are any addictions or issues with which you struggle, please let us know – we are here to help you, not to judge you.

TEAM EXPECTATIONS:

RESPECT

Punctuality, preparation and a humble attitude, coupled with a passion for excellence for God is the main expectation. The goal is for us to start rehearsals on time, however, sometimes unfortunate circumstances may require flexibility. Please make an attempt to communicate with me if at all possible if you are running late or unable to make it to rehearsal.

Humility does not equal meekness. We should have a passion for God, people and music, then in humility be willing to serve as an equal contributor to the team. We ARE performers but GOD is the audience so give Him nothing less than your best as your act of worship! This act also teaches the congregation to do likewise with our very lives, not simply with tunes.

Attitude produces altitude so humility and passion trump even your singing/playing skills as long as you have the basic fundamentals down.

APPEARANCE/Dress Code

Modesty & culturally relevant style are key. (Not sloppy or inappropriate)

- No overly tight clothing. Woman: No short skirts or short dresses (remember you're on a raised stage). No low-cut dresses.
- No spaghetti straps (without a covering).
- No revealing clothing (i.e. see-thru material without undershirt)
- Proper footwear: preferably not your old worn out running shoes.
- No jewelry that could be distracting (think reflective of stage lights or makes noise when moving)

Rehearsal Attendance

As leaders of worship, we should strive to offer our BEST to God. This requires a time commitment and is a living sacrifice that we offer up to God. Mid-Week Rehearsal is a time set aside to fine tune our offering so that we will lead well on Sunday. All team member are expected to be at all rehearsals (Mid-Week and Pre-Service) prior to the Service in which they will lead. If you are unable to attend a rehearsal for any reason, please inform the Worship Director ASAP. If your position is one that has

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another available team member to fill that position, the goal is to fill it with someone that can be at all rehearsals. If there is not another team member that can fill that position, you may be permitted to participate in the worship service (at the Worship Director's discretion) if you utilize Planning Center to learn the songs, rehearse the songs on your own time and be present for the Pre-Service rehearsal. Any team member unable to attend the Pre-Service Rehearsal will not participate in the worship team that week.

Internet Access

Team members are expected to be able to receive text messages, have internet access, email and check the Planning Center website on a weekly basis to stay updated on weekly set lists and other planning. Mass communications during the week will be over email and/or text through Planning Center. Please respond as soon as possible to requests to serve. If you are unable to check the website, you will be responsible to check with the Worship Director regarding schedule, setlists and song versions for personal practice prior to team rehearsals.

Setlists (with charts, lyrics and MP3s):

<http://www.planningcenteronline.com>

Utilize all that Planning Center has to offer as a very valuable resource! Practice with the MP3, using it as a guide to supplement the chord chart in order to determine dynamics, accents, groove, song structure and most time signature lines.

Please don't treat our rehearsals like practices. I ask that you if you need to practice that you do so at home. When we rehearse, you should be ready to run through the songs, just tweaking things for the group dynamic where necessary. Please give your fellow team mates the courtesy of practicing on your own time so that rehearsals will run as smooth as possible. Please come prepared! Take notes on the charts if necessary. Know the songs! If you need assistance in practicing, I'm a music teacher and love to share what I might know so please feel free to just ask!

As another courtesy, if you need to set up your instrument, please do so BEFORE the start of rehearsal.

We are a Team

We are here to worship and lead as a TEAM. We should be here for each other through the victories and challenges of life. If you have an issue or concern about any worship team member, first go to the person you have the issue with, if it cannot be resolved in this manner, next come to the worship director and/or Elder over the worship ministry. If the issue is still unresolved, we may choose to involved the pastor, but please Do NOT run to the Pastor first or simply complain behind other people's backs.

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It is not fair or Biblical to express criticisms behind the backs of those being criticized (Matthew 18:15-17). So please come to me with your concerns and issues.

Please don't assume the negative. Love always hopes for the good in people (1 Cor 13). So if we walk in love, we can minimize conflict!

Vocalists Expectations & Tips:

- Sing on pitch and in tempo.
- Sing in a contemporary style:
 - Moderate to minimal vibrato
 - Contemporary vowel enunciations
- Blend with the other vocalists.
- Support your tone. Good posture is a big key here.
- Facial and physical expressions communicate more than our words so communicate the passion you have outwardly. Lead by example! YOU are all worship leaders!
- Be able to hear and sing a harmony, learning by ear to reproduce the same part consistently each time the song is used. A contemporary praise team doesn't usually need multiple people singing the melody so if you can't harmonize, please make an effort to learn. I'm happy to help you on this path!

Drummers Expectations & Tips:

- Be able to hold steady tempos
- Have and demonstrate controlled dynamics.
- Know song structure of each (verses to choruses, etc.). Whether that means you use the charts, keep notes or memorize, that is up to you.
- For slower songs, less is usually more
- Tastefulness. Give your best (if you have an inner rock star, let it come out when it fits the song), but remember to play for God not people.

Guitarists Expectations & Tips:

- Be able to read chord charts
- Have knowledge of major and minor chords and basic scales
- Control dynamics and maintain consistent tempo
- Know the song style
- Learn parts by ear
- Acoustic guitarists
 - Learn to use a capo when appropriate.

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- Electric guitarists
 - Tailor your tones for the style. Modern worship music uses a lot of ambient sounds especially for cleaner tones (delays, reverbs and shimmers).
 - Listen to recordings of contemporary music for tonal cues (Lincoln Brewster, Hillsong, Jesus Culture, Redman, etc...). From the secular side, Eric Johnson, John Mayer, U2's the Edge and even Slash have produced tones that can work very well within the genre. Things to stay away from? Avoid excessive use of chorus and wah wahs.
 - When in doubt, less is more.
- If you are a skilled soloist, I encourage you to give those skills to God as your act of worship. Just play with humility, performing for God not people, and try to be tasteful and make sure it fits the song or style. Just as light appears brighter when in the presence of darkness, humility shines brighter when in the presence of skill.

Bassists Expectations & Tips:

- Be able to read chord charts
- Have knowledge of basic scales
- Learn parts by ear. LISTEN to the recordings
- Good sense of rhythm/groove. The bass needs to be in tight rhythm with the drums.
- Know when to NOT play. Usually dynamics are the driving force. Play more when the song is big and less when it is small.

Piano/Keyboardists Expectations & Tips:

- Know and use the voices/patches/sounds that are appropriate for the song and styles. In contemporary, these are common patches/sounds:
 - Pianos
 - Organs
 - Strings
 - Pads
- For Piano, if available, play the sheet music provided, filling with ad libs where necessary.
- Know and use chord inversions and keyboard voicing for sound variations
- For Keyboard, be able to read chord charts
- you don't always have to play chords. Sometimes playing single note melodies, fills and counterpoint is just the ticket to put a song over the top!

Tech Team Expectations & Tips:

- Have the ability to adapt to changing situations (PATIENCE)

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- Have the knowledge and skills necessary (or ability to learn) to manage the equipment you will use (computers, software, audio equipment, lighting controls, video equipment)
- Have the willingness to learn new techniques and new equipment
- Be a Team Player (again PATIENCE),
- Make every effort to help the service look and sound it's best to glorify God and reach the people for Christ!

Final Comments:

If you agree to these guidelines and would like to discuss further the opportunity to serve, please go to the website and complete the [Worship Team Application](#).

Worship Director Contact info:

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