



# Worship Band Expectations and Explanations Guide For Vocalists

## Members

### *Profession of Faith and Church Membership*

Vocalists who have made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ, have been baptized by immersion, and are active members of Grace Chapel may serve in the worship band. If you are not a member of Grace Chapel we encourage you to become one. Pastor Joel will gladly answer any questions about church membership.

### *Age and Maturity*

Musicians who are high school age and older may serve in the worship band. High school students must be active participants in the Grace Chapel youth ministry, and it is desired that their parents be members of Grace Chapel.

### *Spouse and/or Family Agreement*

Musicians should have the support of their family to serve in this highly visible role. Family members should agree that the musician is of mature faith and leads a life that is an example for the church to follow. Commitment to this ministry should be weighed carefully in light of the essential commitment to holiness in singleness, marriage, and parenting.

## Skill in Music

### *Technique*

Vocalists must exhibit technical command of their voice and be able to perform the fundamentals of music (melody, harmony, and rhythm) to contribute their unique role to a band. Skilled musicians are capable of singing in time alone and as part of a band. The ability to stay in the groove/pocket with a metronome or click track is required.

### *Nuance*

Musicians must be able to perform in the style and tone of the songs and be able to adapt their singing to suit the groove, feel, character, genre, era, etc. of the song arrangement. There are typically two to four vocalists in our worship services: one singing harmony, and the others adding strength to the melody of the songs. Skilled musicians are responsive to those they are working with, paying close attention to how their contribution is fitting or not fitting with the other instruments or voices in the arrangement. They should be able to adjust and openly dialog about a solution.

### *Presence*

Having the abovementioned skills of music making in line, musicians are freed to lead with an engaging presence before the congregation. Smiling, eye contact with the church family, hand raising, clapping, etc., are good examples of this. It is imperative that worship team members are visibly worshipful toward God, welcoming to the congregation, and wholehearted in their service.

## **Time Commitment**

### *Worship Services*

One band is scheduled for our Saturday evening service (5:15p) and a separate band for our Sunday morning services (9:15a & 11a), all pulled from the same pool of musicians. The services, songs, and worship leader are all the same across the weekend. Musicians are scheduled to serve as they are available, anywhere from one to three times a month.

### *Rehearsals*

Each band holds a 90-minute rehearsal the day of their service.

Saturday Band: 2:30p Call Time; 2:45p Sound Check; 3:15p Downbeat; 4:45p Break

Sunday Band: 7a Call Time; 7:10a Sound Check; 7:15a Downbeat; 8:45a Break

Since vocalists do not need to set up their instrument, they may arrive five to ten minutes before sound check.

### *Personal Practice*

Practice time at home is vital. We prepare songs to be fairly close to the original recordings while making them our own for Grace Chapel. It is important to be ready to perform melody lines, harmonies, solos, vocal echoes, descants, etc. to create the overall sound of the songs as they were recorded. Your band mates will be expecting to hear those musical elements from you and you from them. Only after these defining elements have been established do we begin to cultivate our personal take on them. Think of it this way: you learn your part at home and pair it with everyone else's parts at rehearsal; practice is personal and rehearsal is relational.

### *Choir Expectation*

In order to develop and hone the technical skills and ensemble experience necessary to sing in the worship band, vocalists are expected to commit to singing with the Grace Chapel Choir for at least one season. The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 September through May. They sing in worship services once a month and in special services and events around Christmas and Easter. If you are uncertain about whether or not you can make this commitment, please speak with Joel about it.

### *Team Nights*

On the second Friday of every quarter we hold a team night. This is a time for the worship band musicians and tech team personnel to gather for a time of worship, refreshment, encouragement, and instruction. These provide an opportunity to build relationships within our demanding ministry and prevent it from becoming a transactional revolving door of people.

## **Tools & Resources**

### *Sheet Music and Recordings*

Chord charts, lead sheets, tab charts, lyrics, and recordings in both the original key and the key we will perform the song in are all accessed through Planning Center Online. Songs are scheduled three to four weeks in advance but are subject to change.

### *Planning Center Online*

PCO is the service we use to organize our people, music, rehearsals, and services. It works through your email and allows you access to our music library and schedule. There is a free app available for iOS and Android. View PDFs of charts and stream recordings from your device wherever you are. Check the "Notes" section in the songs to see an arrangement overview and helpful directions for vocalists.

## **Scheduling**

### *Block Out Dates*

Members serve on an as available basis, which you communicate to the scheduler through Block Out Dates. When you know of a date that you will not be available to serve, enter it in as a block out date in PCO so that the scheduler will not ask you to serve on that date. You may also set up recurring availability like “only available the first and third weekend of each month.”

### *Requests to Serve*

Bands are scheduled at least one month in advance. Each scheduled person receives an email request for a date and is committed to respond within one week of the sent request. This allows the scheduler time to find a replacement should you decline the request, and allows your replacement time to prepare. It is vital to the health of our relationships that you respond in a timely manner. If you are not sure about a request to serve, please communicate with us so that we can work together on how to proceed.

### *Declines*

Declines to serve are preventable and should only happen in extreme unforeseen circumstances. Having looked ahead in your personal calendar and submitted any block out dates, you will only be requested to serve on dates you have left unblocked.

## **Attire**

We desire to present a welcoming atmosphere and dress to reflect our church family. Attire can be fairly relaxed while presenting a clean and put together look.

### *Guys*

Please wear a collared shirt. Polos and short-sleeve and long-sleeve button downs are acceptable. Crew cut or V-neck sweaters with a t-shirt underneath are acceptable. Please refrain from wearing large graphics, logos, sports teams, and characters. Please refrain from wearing active wear or shorts. Pants should be in good repair; jeans are acceptable.

### *Gals*

Tops must have a modest neckline and sleeves or caps on the shoulder. No sleeveless blouses, tank tops, or spaghetti straps. Please refrain from wearing large graphics, logos, sports teams, and characters. Skirts, pants, or capris that stop below the knee are all acceptable. Denim jeans in good repair are acceptable. Please refrain from wearing active wear, shorts, and cut-offs. Please remember the congregation is looking up at the stage, therefore skirts must be at the knee in length.