

Woodside Baptist Church Choir Organization

It is a privilege to serve God! In Hebrew worship, and throughout church history, choirs have been an important factor in group-worship, and in the proclamation of the gospel. The choir today is vitally important to the work of the church.

Purpose/Mission Statement:

To glorify Jesus Christ by allowing Him to use the choir as a tool by working through each individual choir member to:

- (a) prepare the hearts of the congregation for the preaching of the word of God;
- (b) bless the members of the congregation and members of the choir alike through the singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs;
- (c) to lead the congregation in singing;
- (d) to be an example to the other members of the church by the testimony of their lives;
- (e) to provide an avenue of service to the members of the church.

The Woodside Baptist Church Adult Choir is a volunteer choir. Therefore, each choir member by his (her) choice has volunteered to give of what talent he (she) may have to the service of the Lord and His church, and as a testimony to the congregation of life that has been totally "volunteered" to Christ for him to use as He leads. Because the adult choir is made up of individuals, each member must realize that when the individuals are not present, the choir is not present either. It is just as important for each individual to be faithful as it is the director of the choir himself.

MEMBERSHIP EXPECTATIONS

1. We desire each member of the choir to also be a member of Woodside Baptist Church.
2. We desire that each choir member be at least 18 or out of High School; exceptions made when parents' and Pastors' approval is secured. When there is an active Youth Choir we discourage participation in the Adult Choir. We urge young people to participate and support the music ministry of the Youth Department.
3. Each member should be committed and faithful:
 - a) Realizing the importance of the ministry of the choir, attendance must be regular to all rehearsals as well as services.
 - b) Because rehearsals are limited, members should be on time and remain for the entire time.
 - c) In case of absence, each member is expected to notify the choir director in advance as soon as possible, either by telephone or in person, whichever would be soonest.
4. The choir member must be an example to the other members of the church through the testimony of his (her) personal life:
 - a) The choir member should be an example by not being associated with any other activities which are of a worldly nature or appearance (i.e., tobacco, alcohol, theater-going, etc.)
 - b) The choir member should be active in seeking to win other to Christ at all times.
 - c) The choir member should be a faithful giver in accordance with the standards set down in the Word of God.

- d) The personal appearance of each choir member must be an example to the congregation as well:
- (1) Men's hair should be short (not over the ears or on the collar) and ties should be worn.
 - (2) Women should be dressed modestly (dress length must be no shorter than the bottom of the knee).
 - (3) All members must be neat and clean.

also see that all of the music is stamped, catalogued and filed according to a definite system, as well as keeping the music in a good state of repair.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

PRESIDENT Coordinates the various activities and acts as the group administrator.

VICE-PRESIDENT Takes over in the absence of the president and is usually directly responsible for the promotion and enlistment of the new members and the encouragement of absentees to attend rehearsals and services.

SECRETARY is all-important in that this person keeps the attendance records and informs the director and choir officers of the faithfulness of each member.

TREASURER is responsible for all choir finances.

LIBRARIAN Should see that the music to be used gets into the hands of choir members quickly, and is properly returned to the files after its use. Additionally, the librarian is responsible for all music checked out to members who desire to borrow a copy. The librarian should

SOCIAL CHAIRMAN

should be responsible for all details involved in the group's social functions, get well cards etc.

ROBE CHAIRMAN will keep the robe assignment records and assign robes to new members. Robe cleaning and repair will also be monitored by this officer.

SPIRITUAL EFFECTIVENESS: The spiritual effectiveness of the choir organization is proportionate to its loyalty and morale. Each member is expected to work against factors that can undermine this! Some of these factors are:

1. Lack of attention during rehearsals.
2. Ill feelings voiced publicly rather than privately to the director.
3. Voicing opinions regarding one's disrespect for the director or the officers of the organization, especially to those outside the organization.
4. Any type of action or attitude which dampens the enthusiasm of present or future choir members.
5. Displaying individual talent or satisfying personal interests rather than working for the good of the entire group.

Hence, all vocal special music will come from the choir members themselves, with the exception of special guests / visitors, at the Pastor's appointment and approval.

Notes of Operation

Refresher rehearsal: Sunday 7:45-7:55 A.M.
10:30-10:45 A.M.
Regular rehearsal: Sunday 4:30-5:45 P.M.

Other rehearsals are scheduled as needed (i.e., cantata rehearsals, ensemble rehearsals).

It is a courtesy to call Music Pastor when you will be either late or absent. Excused absences include: sickness, work, or vehicle problems. It is a concern when unexcused absences occur frequently. Though we are a volunteer choir, dedication to the Lord is expressed in dedication to His work. We desire, therefore, individuals who certainly believe it is God's will for them to be involved in this ministry, and thus, to act responsibly toward it. In regards to choir, if you have not sufficiently practiced a piece to be sung, please excuse yourself from that presentation.

GUIDELINES FOR SPECIAL MUSIC

In regards to special music, poor planning results in poor presentation.

All selections should be approved 2 weeks prior by Music Pastor. Hebrews 13:17 "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

Special music needs to be rehearsed with the following no later than one week in advance:

- (1) Music Pastor
 - (2) Weds. Coordinator- Wed. specials only
- 1 Corinthians 14:40 "Let all things be done decently and in order."

If you do not rehearse a week before, please call and get advice.

No unauthorized photocopied music will be allowed for presentation; if an original copy cannot be located, Music Pastor can assist you in getting photocopy permission; unwillingness to buy music is not a valid reason. When we violate the copyright law we are cheating composers and publishers of royalties that we are obligated to pay. 1 Timothy 5:18 "For the scripture saith, **thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn.** And, **THE LABOURER IS WORTHY OF HIS REWARD.**"

Internalize the song in the 2 weeks prior to presentation, and memorize with much prayer. Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ **dwelt IN you richly** in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Ephesians 5:19(b) ...singing and making melody **in your heart** to the Lord;

Show respect for the accompanists by advanced planning and by making appointments for practices.

Appropriate dress should be worn on the platform:
Ladies: Modest dresses. - Men: Coat and tie.
1 Timothy 2:9 "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;"

Be on the front row prior to your special, and begin ascending the platform at cue.

No contemporary Christian music will be sung. James 1:8 "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."
No sound tracks will be used.

During rehearsal, have a teachable spirit, open to suggestions and comments. Do not take these comments personally, but **maturely**: we wish to train and equip you to do your best for God's glory.

1 Corinthians 10:31 "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

Ephesians 4:11, 12 "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"

CHOICE OF MUSIC

Music used in the services of Woodside Baptist Church must be of the highest standards. Therefore the following guidelines are established:

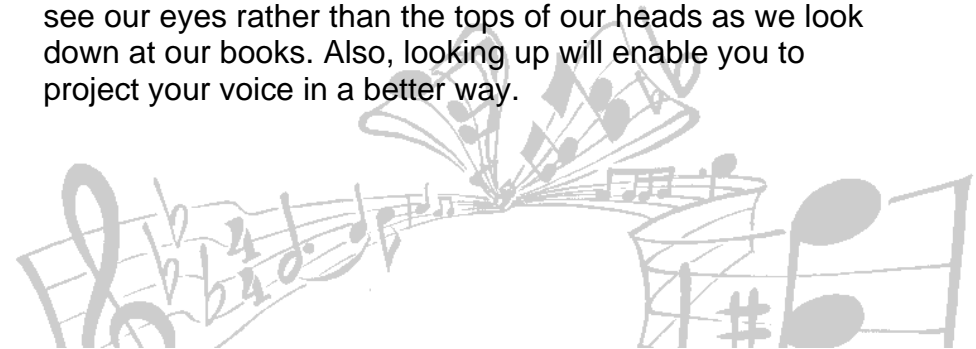
WORDS - The verbal message of the song must be done in accord with correct Bible doctrine. Read the words over to determine their meaning and to see if the song contains doctrinal errors. If doctrinal error is found, then choose another song. The words must, furthermore, contain a spiritual message. Songs of an emotional nature by contemporary performing artists are frowned upon. Most of these writers are associated with the Charismatic Movement as well as Gospel Rock. Though there may be an occasional song from this culture which does not flagrantly violate Biblical principles, we feel it best to simply stay away from this type of music.

MUSIC - The musical content must be in agreement with a Christian testimony. Rock music, whether hard, soft, sweet, sour, or otherwise, is not permitted. Most songs which have originated in the rock culture or other cultures including the religious one ought not be used even if the objectionable rock elements are deleted.

Music presented in a "night club" style is not permitted. This restriction includes jazz styles which violate established musical principles.

PRESENTATION OF MUSIC - While ideas such as professionalism and "exhibition of talent" are to be rejected, there is something to be said for accurate and effective communication. A good song with good words can easily be hidden by the one(s) ministering if ineffective techniques of communication are used. The following are some guidelines that should be observed by every musician:

1. Be as familiar as possible with not only the music but the text of the song that you are using. Be consumed with the message and allow the words to be a blessing to your own heart so that you may be a blessing to others in communicating the words. Memorizing the words is not absolutely necessary, though it does add effectiveness.
2. In singing the music itself be sure to sing out, enunciating your words and hitting the notes properly. There is no need to adopt a "night club" or "pop" style in sliding or scooping up or down to the notes. The truth that we seek is one of certainty and the music that we sing and the notes are certain notes that should be hit with certainty.
3. Seek to maintain as much eye contact as possible, having a pleasant look on your face. This will come with practice as well as familiarity with the song itself. It has been said that our eyes are the windows to our soul. We can only communicate our true feelings if people are able to see our eyes rather than the tops of our heads as we look down at our books. Also, looking up will enable you to project your voice in a better way.



GUIDELINES FOR OFFERTORIES

1. SELECTION - The song should be generally known and sung in our church. If the song you wish to play is not in our hymnal, please check with Pastor Self.

2. PREPARATION - Have your piece ready 2 weeks before presentation. If an emergency arises and you can't make it, let us know A.S.A.P! Brass offertories should be rehearsed with Orchestra/Brass Director; piano and other offertories with Music Pastor or those he may refer you to. Again, no contemporary Christian music, please!

3. GOALS - An offertory is a ministry, a way of encouraging others to think on the message of the song. Examine your arrangement. Does your arrangement convey the message of the text, or does it glorify the performer? Keep a balance. Too much technique and filler (especially apart from the melody) is not conveying the message, but is a performance.

4. RESPONSIBILITY - First and foremost we represent Christ in our playing. We also show first-time visitors and new Christians what the proper standards are. We represent the Church. We are Woodside's standard, so we must be even more careful in public presentation.

5. THINGS TO AVOID -

- a) glissando effects deemed excessive.
- b) lush chords in succession and in excess.
- c) suggestive and overpowering rhythms.
- d) sensationalism (i.e. 4 lines of ending after the song is over, etc.)
- e) chromaticism deemed excessive.
- f) repeated chords over doing one note.

Anyone who has played fewer than ten (10) times for Sunday offertories should have his (her) piece reviewed by Music Pastor or those he may refer you to.

THANK YOU for your hard work and your desire to minister. Thank you for sharing your talent for God's glory. Each of us is individually talented. We are not trying to make "clones" of offertories, but rather set boundaries and guidelines to keep a standard of excellence.

As we serve together, **let's pray** for the Lord's guidance and blessing in our music ministry.

**** BE FAITHFUL AND DEPENDABLE! ****

1 CORINTHIANS 4:2

"MOREOVER IT IS REQUIRED IN STEWARDS, THAT A MAN BE FOUND FAITHFUL."

MUSIC MINISTRY HANDBOOK

***FOR MINISTRY YEARS
2004 - 2005***



Choir, special music, offertories

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