

THOUGHTS FOR THE CONDUCTOR

The church conductor should be a person of prayer: many times people need to talk to the Music Director or practice after church. If you can develop a rule of fifteen minutes after church to devote to prayer, at least you may give that person, as well as yourself, an opportunity to pray.

Our desire is to be sensitive, longsuffering, cheerful, kind, encouraging, patient, etc. Not one of us would say that we have too much of these traits. Prayer really helps along these lines.

Because you are in a leadership capacity, be sure you are gracious when you receive a compliment. Don't stumble around and try to make excuses or try to show your humility; just say "thank you."

When criticism comes your way, remain kind and perhaps say, "Pray for us; we are a work in progress." Don't get drawn into tearing down any of your groups or soloists to other members in the church. Remember, they had the courage to get up and perform because most likely YOU asked them. Be appreciative of the fact that they went ahead and did it.

If you have an orchestra, use it to play during congregational singing. Don't make them sit and sing through the majority of the song service while holding their instruments.

Do your best to encourage music lessons. Also try to build on your instrumental program at the church. We want to see orchestras in every church, if possible. It may start only with an ensemble, but that is better than none at all.

Be sensitive to keeping a balance in your music styles. With the help and direction of your pastor, don't hesitate to have a meeting with your soloists and ensembles that do specials in the service.

- Help them understand that they should be prepared at a moment's notice.
- Make sure songs are not crossover songs. (Lyrics need to mention God or Jesus at some point so we know who they are singing about).
- Help your music people to understand the difference between a prelude-type song and a last special.

- Help your pianist understand the style of songs to choose during testimony time. (Probably not, “In the Garden” or “Whisper a Prayer,” but more likely “Victory in Jesus” and “A New Name in Glory.”)
- If you have a choir, try to have a balance of styles from one meeting to another.

We encourage having orchestras and choirs in the church as a means of worshiping God. He is the ultimate audience and will bless us as we do our best for Him.

We also recognize that when an orchestra and choir are involved in the service, you have that many more people actively involved besides the preacher and song leader.

Finally, we come into the House of the Lord with music because Scripture says:

“Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.” (Psalm 149:1)

“Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.”(Psalm 150:1-6)