

# WPCB MUSIC MINISTRY

**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Col 3:16**

## AIM \ PURPOSE

The music ministry of the church is there to assist\enable the worship service to be properly focussed on glorifying God. The music should encourage us to worship God in reverence, awe, delight and joy (Heb 12:28 & Psalm 100).

*\*For a full summary of WPCB's principles on worship please read the "Leading Worship at WPC Belconnen" document - September 2008*

This ministry (like all other ministries) therefore should be as 'professional' and as proficient as it possibly can be, fully utilising all the skills and talents the Lord has given us (2 Chron 5:11-14). However the music needs to ensure that it allows the congregation to take part in the singing, and not become so 'good' or complex that the congregation feels entertained or is excluded from actively participating.

Music affects the heart, the emotions, as well as the mind, so the music should purposefully aim to affect all of these so that the people are fully engaged in the worship. As we are commanded to worship in both spirit and truth (John 4:24) the songs we sing must be 'theologically rich' and scripturally correct, but also enable the right attitudes in our worship.

Music is only a part of the worship service but it has a wonderful ability to facilitate a greater attitude and involvement in the other components of the service, ie prayer, sermon.

## STRENGTHS OF THE MINISTRY

This ministry should aim to continue to improve as much as is it can, building on the strengths and talents the Lord has given us. Some of our specific strengths are:

- God undertakes for us in our work in this ministry;
- We have made great improvements already over the past 18 months;
- Rehearsals particularly have helped the quality improve;
- We have included some great new songs into our 'repertoire';
- Our worship services have a freedom of style\song choice and this is to be appreciated;
- Most people in the music team are still enthusiastic and keen in serving the Lord in this way;
- Relatively large number of musicians available and a diversity of worship leaders; and
- Reasonably good facilities and resources

## TEAM STRUCTURE

There will be four music teams each with a team leader appointed. The team leaders will work with a member of Session who will fulfil the role of music coordinator. Teams will be created so that there is a balance with types of instruments and weaker & stronger musicians.

Each team member should understand their responsibilities and any prospective team members will be given a note outlining the expectations of the music team, which the person will be asked to prayerfully consider before committing themselves to this ministry

### Teams

- **Team 1** (*Play week one in the month*)
  - Team Leader - **Karina Andrews**
- **Team 24** (*Play weeks two & four in the month*)
  - Team Leader - **Ben Wyllie**
- **Team 3** (*Play week three in the month*)
  - Team Leader - **Bethany Roberts**
- **Team 5** (*Play week five in the month*)
  - Team Leader - **Tegan Roberts**

### Music Coordinator Duties

- Provide administrative assistance for the four team leaders;
- Assist with facilitation\communication between;
  - the session and the music teams
  - the congregation and the music teams
  - the 'sub-committee' and the music teams
- Formalise the actions \ tasks that are needed to provide improvement in the music ministry & manage them so that they are completed in an appropriate timeframe; and
- Facilitate a WPCB music database with lyrics, music team comments etc.
- A roster to be created that will include worship leader, preacher, music team & sound\projector team

### Team Leaders Duties

These roles are permanent and crucial to the success of the music ministry and each team leader will have direct control of the direction and coordination of their teams.

- Provide technical music direction for their team, including the arrangement of the music;
- Oversight of each team member especially considering their abilities and attitudes towards this ministry;
- Facilitation of practice sessions including the provision of appropriate equipment etc;

- Contact the worship leader for the Sunday they are responsible for to ensure the music team understands his requirements. The team leader should provide advice on the suitability of the music selected, and make suitable arrangements if there are issues with the song choices, including suggesting different songs or finding musicians that can play the piece appropriately. *Worship leader are to have order of worship completed by COB Fri so any changes can be made before Sunday*;
- Arrange a time of prayer before the worship service. This should be arranged to allow for music to be played as a prelude to the worship service for at least 5 (or even 10) minutes before the stated service time until the service starts; and

## **POLICIES\ PRACTICES**

### **General**

- Prayer will be an important part of the music team's preparation to ensure that the Lord is glorified in their attitudes and efforts;
- Proper emphasis should be given to the evening service particularly ensuring that there are an appropriate number of musicians and singers at the service;
- Teams will practice regularly to ensure that the quality of the music is always improving; and
- All teams will finish set up preparations on the Sunday, 20 mins before the service begins to ensure the congregation are not unduly disrupted.

### **Instruments**

- As there are no scriptural commandments against specific instruments, wisdom needs to be applied in instrument choice particularly in regard to volume;
- No instrument should dominate the music so that it hinders the singing. The congregation must be able to hear itself singing, and if there are microphoned singers, then the lyrics need to be clearly heard as opposed to being drowned out by the band. This will be continually monitored by the session and dealt with when incidents occur; and
- Drums and guitar have been approved by session and musicians who play these instruments have been included in the music teams. The drums particularly will be gradually introduced into the worship service, to help with general acceptance of the instrument.

### **Repertoire**

- Songs in the repertoire will be biblically based and sound in doctrine. Songs should glorify God through their rich gospel truths and edifying value;
- The teams will focus on the importance of tempo and ensure that the music is played appropriate to the style and purpose of the song. The songs should be singable – high pitches and complex rhythms should be avoided (see details on Range & Rhythm below);

- The style of songs selected should be to facilitate our people's worship of God. These could be described as "middle of the road" – not a charismatic style and not a dirge;
- The singing of psalms to current music should also be encouraged as a way of ensuring an appropriate balance;
- A music database (especially for non-hymns) will be provided to contain, lyrics\comments\suggestions\ratings\etc. This will allow the worship leader to make a more informed choice when selecting music for the worship service; and
- Music that is new \ contemporary will be regularly added to the repertoire. However the worship service should always contain a strong balance of old\new songs, as we have a wide variety of tastes in the congregation.

#### **Not well known songs –**

- Should obviously be practised a lot; and
- As a suggestion the song\music could possibly be played before the service to help the congregation be familiar with the tune.

#### **Range & Rhythm**

- The 'range' of songs should aim to suit both males & females, so team leaders might need to advise worship leaders if the song is too high or low as part of their normal discussions;
- If the team leader has the option then changing the key might be a better option than choosing a different song;
- Try and avoid high pitched songs early in the morning, it's really hard for some males to sing high early in the day;
- Songs to be sung in a corporate setting need to be fairly straightforward in the rhythms used. Complex timings and off-beats are hard to sing for a corporate entity of untrained singers; and
- Long instrumental interludes should generally be avoided as the congregation should consistently be involved in the music;

#### **Worship Leaders**

- The worship service should include a rich blend of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs;
- The worship leaders will be encouraged to engage with the music team leaders about what songs they think would be appropriate for the opening of the worship service;
- As the initial\opening part of the worship service is a critical time for enabling the people to be engaged\ focussed on worshipping the Lord, the first song\s should well-known, energetic, vibrant & majestic;
- Songs are to be selected according to their usefulness in glorifying God through harmonizing with the theme. Songs should be selected to enable the people to express different responses to God from reverence and fear, to joy and thanksgiving; from despair to exuberance. The Psalms give us a guide here;
- If a song contains unusual words or phrasings, these should be explained;

- Generally avoid using too many songs not known well by the congregation. If you decide to do so, ensure you have worked with the relevant team leader to ensure that you have mitigated any issues\concerns;
- Be aware of maintaining a balance of songs across different eras; and
- The songs before and after the sermons can be used to reinforce the sermon.

### **Singers**

- The purpose of the singers is to lead the congregation with new \ unfamiliar songs, and provide harmony\support for well-known songs. The singers should genuinely enjoy leading the singing and ensure their appearance and enthusiasm reflects this;
- The singers need to know how to use their microphones, and have them setup properly before the service; and
- The singers should have paper copies of the words \ music in front of them in case the screen malfunctions etc

### **Sound \ Projection**

- The sound\projection team needs to have a significant involvement in the preparation of the music, as the volume, balance, tone, timing etc are very important elements in the delivery of the music. Specifically they need to be involved in the practice sessions for the music teams; and
- The volume for the singers need to be at an appropriate level so that they can be heard above the congregation

### **New Songs (Introduction)**

- The music team (especially the singers) will learn new songs at practice sessions, so that when they are introduced to the congregation they will provide the necessary support to seamlessly introduce it into our 'repertoire';
- New songs will continue to be introduced at relevant evening services and the church camp;
- Generally new songs will be introduced on an Agape night and played again the following Sunday. It would be preferred if a new song could be played twice on a Sunday;
- On occasions where new songs are introduced at an evening service the music team should definitely include singers to assist with the song;
- The congregation will be actively encouraged to suggest new songs to the music coordinator and team leaders. The suggested songs will be evaluated and feedback on the decision will be given;
- The music teams will occasionally learn hymns with newer tunes that are judged easier for the congregation to sing; and
- Where appropriate words for older hymns will be changed to remove old style words eg thee, thou

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*Hymns breathe the praise of the saints, The vision of the prophets,  
The prayers of the penitent and the spirit of the martyrs.  
They bring solace to the sad, assurance to the perplexed,  
Faith to the doubter and comfort to the oppressed.  
They span the centuries of history and bridge the barriers of denominations.  
Study them to be pure in heart;  
Sing them to be joyful in spirit,  
Store them in the mind to possess a treasury of worship.*

—Unknown