

# Music Directing

## Mission Statement

*The Music Director's mission is to lead the band in support of the worship leader. The music director will support the band and vocalists by being the link in communication between the vocalists and the band. The music director is responsible for calling chord changes, spontaneous changes, on the spot changes to the song flow, etc.*

## Attitude

Music Directors are one of the key voices during rehearsal, and the only voice over IEMs during service. With this said, attitude is of the utmost importance. If the Music Director has a good attitude, the band will have a good attitude. It is important to stay positive and encouraging, and to maintain an upbeat, happy environment. If the MD is free to joke and have fun in rehearsals, it tells the band it is okay to have fun.

## Humility

The Music Director sets the tone for rehearsals and the vibe for hanging out. With that being said. If the MD makes a mistake in the song, chord or part wise, or anything. The MD should be the first person to speak up and apologize. This shows the team that it is okay to be wrong, in fact it is necessary to acknowledge this so that we can grow. Modeling this gives the team members approval to be human and not be perfect.

We do our best, but nobody is perfect.

At the same time, it is important that the Music Director is very prepared and practiced for the service. This sets the standard for how prepared team members should be at rehearsals. If the Music director is not prepared at rehearsal, the team members will not be prepared at rehearsals.

## Correcting parts

When a team member is not proficient on a part, it is very important that music directors do not directly correct people in front of everyone. IE: if a team member hits a bad chord, talk the whole team through the chord progression that was not executed correctly. If it persists with the one team member, or if the issue is specific and not for the whole team, talk to the team member one on one. Do not address this in front of the rest of the team.

## **FLOW**

Flowing in the Holy Spirit is an essential part of Spirit led worship leading. Being able to flow with the Holy Spirit in a live worship environment stems from a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit in everyday life. If you aren't flowing with the Holy Spirit in your personal daily life, how will you flow with Him in music? When it comes to flowing a Music director must know how the worship leader will call sections, dynamics, or changes live during a set. Hand signals are very beneficial for this, but the worship leader should not have to make such large hand signals that the whole congregation is aware where the song is going. If the Worship leader has a vocalist leading a song, the MD should watch the lead vocal for any flow changes.

In the scenario that the team is flowing, but the worship leader has not communicated where they want to go, it is the Music Directors responsibility to lead the worship team. This could mean bringing it down and repeating the progression, or staying in the same moment and calling a repeat. The amazing thing is that in these moments when the MD and The Worship leader are both being spirit led, they will be led to the same sections. But the MD should always follow and adhere to what the song lead/worship leader is calling.

## **Development**

An essential part of Music Directing is calling the best out of the team. This means having a deep understanding of the teams capabilities and limitations. Each person should be pushed to be better than they were before. Team members should never be compared to another team member, they should only be compared to themselves. This means improving on how prepared they are, showing up on time, communication skills with other team members and their MD / Worship Leader. Once you have a team member who is a leader, and is highly proficient on their instrument, it may be time to start training them to be a Music Director. This training should take place in the form of shadowing. And then music directing in rehearsal settings before they are thrown into a service. It is helpful to have a experienced MD with a Talkback microphone, (microphone that only goes to the teams in ears)

To help guide the new MD if they become frazzled.

## **Keep It Cool**

In the situation where something goes wrong, which is inevitable. The MD is the main point of contact for every team member. Their job is to hold the team together. Get the tracks muted, or count the vocalist back on time, or even instruct the band to follow the vocalists wrong tempo until the team can all get back on time together. The Music Director is the captain of the metaphorical ship that the worship team is sailing. And a good captain always goes down with their ship.

### **Flow of rehearsal**

- **Arrival** (Everyone should arrive with enough time to set up their instruments and even offer help to other team members. This could be 10 minutes early for a vocalist. And 20 minutes early for a guitar player.)
- **Line Check** (This is where the MD/FOH operator will run through each input and gain channels)
- **Play a song from the set.** (This is where the team can run through a song and focus on getting their IEMs, (In Ear Monitors) mixed.
- **Rehearsal begins.** (At this point the Vocal Director can split off for a Vocal rehearsal, or everyone can stay together and start running through the songs and parts)
- **Full Run Through.** (Before this run through you might want to take a 5 minute break. Especially if there are some team members who you need to discuss parts with privately. But then you run through the whole set just like service and hit transitions. It is important to record this run through for the team, FOH can even multitrack it so that they can review their mix and work on it later.)
- **FLOW.** (Flow is essential in rehearsal. If the Band/worship leaders cannot flow in rehearsal how will they flow in service. This is an essential part of growing as worship leaders. Flowing in rehearsals gives opportunity for growth and spirit lead moments. This will give the team confidence to be spirit led in services.)