



MUSIC DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION

PURPOSE: The Music Director is the point of contact for band members regarding musical questions, resources and communication. In its simplest form, this role exists to promote worship team clarity and unity throughout the set through confident and timely song section calls. In more advanced forms, this person may facilitate team musical development, assist with set planning and scheduling, and direct Spirit-led flow moments.

SKILL REQUIREMENTS:

- Shows great skill in their primary instrument, makes no mistakes that distract in worship and has a firm grasp on the arrangement of each song in the set
- Able to confidently verbalize song section calls regularly mid-song
- Able to lead a band rehearsal, play proficiently while listening to the other band members, and provide necessary, constructive feedback to band members
- Able to prepare and troubleshoot Ableton tracks for each song
- Familiarity or skill with multiple instruments, notably those on platform, is beneficial
- Intermediate understanding of music theory is beneficial

TIME REQUIREMENTS:

Ableton tracks preparation + band communication + personal practice time + weekday rehearsal + weekend services = **~12 hours/week**

REPORTS TO: Worship Director *(or assigned Weekend Worship Leader)*

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **COMMUNICATION:** Reaches out to band members, verifying they have the resources they need to identify and execute their parts with excellence. Clarifies who is playing lead, rhythm, aux, etc. when 2 or more people play the same instrument. Clarifies song atypical song arrangements, instrumentation or musical transitions.
- **PREPARATION:** Practices their specific instrument parts, aiming for excellence. Determines most-needed song section calls and practices verbalizing them while

playing. Determines what final chord each song will ring out on, and plans ahead for smooth song transitions, especially when switching musical keys.

- **DAY-OF LEADERSHIP:**

- **BEGINNER:** Preferably arrives early to rehearsal and weekend service(s) to ensure personal gear and Ableton computer is set up ahead of time. Has set list and any special notes in view in order to anticipate needed calls. Finds a balance with the number and timing of song section calls made that best suits the worship team. Asks for feedback and adjusts accordingly. Watches the Weekend Leader for on-the-fly changes and song section hand signals. Yields to the instruction and final say of the Weekend Leader.
- **ADVANCED:** Preferably arrives early to rehearsal and weekend service(s) to ensure personal and church-provided gear is set up and ready for band members, as well as Ableton computer. Troubleshoots and adjusts Ableton file to suit any changes to the set list or computer glitches.. Leads band through each song and transition, works to strengthen weak moments in the set, and gently communicates to team members who need to make adjustments to serve the whole. Verbalizes song section calls most helpful to the team with good timing and watches the Weekend Leader for sudden arrangement changes, flow moments, or hand signals. Ultimately yields to and supports the final say of the Weekend Leader in any matter.

MUSIC DIRECTOR CALL LIST:

- **SONG START:** Name of song, launch Ableton/click and/or count in
- **SECTION CALLS:** Intro, Verse, Pre-Chorus, Chorus, Bridge, Interlude, Tag, Outro
- **SONG END:** Outro, count-in to final chord, final chord name/number
- **TRANSITIONS:** Ex: “Go down to just keys in 1..2..3..4..”, “let’s flow on this 4 5 6 1/3 progression for a while”, “Emcee is building, let’s build up behind him, big swell..”