

MUSIC MINISTRY

The ministry of music at RPC is the result of the combined efforts of the choir, orchestra, and band and of the individual efforts of musicians (instrumentalists and vocalists) and technicians (sound board and PowerPoint operators and recording technicians), who consider it a privilege to serve and to give glory to our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Music Ministry Mission Statement

It is our mission as overseers of the Music Ministry to be wise stewards in the careful and gracious utilization of the musical gifts with which God has blessed our congregation and to have an aesthetic sensibility in choosing music that is the best we can offer in terms of what is appropriate for worship and in terms of matching individual and group talents to musical styles and selections, whether they be classical, traditional, or contemporary.

Music Ministry Goals

The goals of the Music Ministry are:

- to identify and develop musical talent
- to inspire fellow musicians, fellow worship leaders, and the congregation through the use of musical talents
- to bring together the choir, band, orchestra, and accompanists in unified expression
- to provide a variety of instruments/styles with different teams, in order to allow the congregation to fully express praise to our Lord
- to emphasize a spirit of worship while maintaining musical excellence
- to allow for musical expression in all of its dimensions: thanks, praise, confession, supplication

Guidelines for Selecting Music

With the words of the [Music Ministry Mission Statement](#) in mind, the music staff uses the following guidelines in selecting music to be used in the worship service:

- music without lyrics: composed as sacred music (Christian tradition)
- songs (with lyrics): lyrics should have depth and richness and should bring the listener to a point where our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer is the focus instead of personal experience
- mood: a well-written song creates a mood; songs used in worship should create a mood that is appropriate for the setting
- artful: the song should be a good work of art that avoids cliché and mass-marketed appeal for its own sake (in other words, a good song written 500 years ago, e.g., A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, is a good song today and will be a good song 500 years from now)
- approved: music needs to be pre-approved by the Organist, Choir/Orchestra Director, or Director of Music, depending on who is coordinating
- accompaniment: in keeping with [Music Ministry Goals](#), unless the song is presented a cappella, it should be accompanied by live music (not pre-recorded)

The Role of Individuals Who Participate in Music Ministry

Individuals who participate in Music Ministry are people who have been called to use their gifts, skills, and abilities in the church. They are asked to be:

- facilitators who provide musical or technical service without emphasizing individual performance
- team members who consider how their part fits into the worship service as a whole
- servants who work for the good of others

Solo and Small Ensemble Musical Offerings

Occasionally solo and small ensemble musical offerings are presented. Generally these are scheduled by the Organist and are used in the worship service as offertories and are expected to be between 3 and 5 minutes in length. Sometimes musical offerings may be used at other times in the service and they may sometimes be coordinated by the Director of Music.

What is expected of those presenting musical offerings?

- informed: understands [Music Ministry Goals](#), understands [The Role of Individuals Who Participate in Music Ministry](#), and understands and follows the [Guidelines for Selecting Music](#)
- prepared: well-rehearsed and confident of abilities
- organized: coordinates with sound board operator and knows when in the worship service to play or sing

Choir

The Choir leads RPC in musical worship from September through May under the direction of the Choir Director and is open to singers who are 9th-grade and up. Those who are interested in participating in Choir may need to audition (at the discretion of the Choir Director).

What is expected of Choir members?

- flexible: works well with others
- good listener: can discern his/her part and can blend with other voices
- musical: ability to sing in parts on key and in time
- organized: keeps track of rehearsals/performances and keeps required music in order
- reliable: prompt attendance at rehearsals
- attentive: maintains eye contact with director and stays focused on learning the music

Orchestra

The Orchestra leads worship at RPC from September through May under the direction of the Orchestra Director and is open to players who are 7th-grade and up. Those who are interested in participating in Orchestra may need to audition (at the discretion of the Orchestra Director).

What is expected of Orchestra members?

- flexible: works well with others
- good listener: can discern his/her part in the whole
- musical: ability to read and play his/her part in tune and in time
- organized: keeps track of rehearsals/performances and keeps required music in order
- reliable: prompt attendance at rehearsals
- attentive: maintains eye contact with director and stays focused on learning the music

Band

The Band regularly leads worship music under the direction of the Director of Music. Participation is by invitation from the Director of Music. Those who are interested in participating in Band may need to audition (at the discretion of the Director of Music).

What is expected of Band members?

- flexible: works well with others
- good listener: can discern his/her part in the whole
- organized: knows when he/she is scheduled and keeps required music in order
- reliable: prompt attendance at rehearsals
- reading skills: familiarity with musical notation and chord charts
- musical: good sense of rhythm, harmony, and melody
- focused: on our number one goal, which is to provide solid accompaniment that encourages congregational singing

Audio-Visual Technicians

Audio-Visual Technicians provide valuable service to ensure that worship service audio and video is presented clearly. The Sound Board Operator makes audio connections required for each worship service and mixes and records worship service audio. The PowerPoint Operator organizes PowerPoint presentation data and presents it during the worship service. The Recording Technician records, mixes, and archives worship service audio.

What is expected of Audio-Visual Technicians?

- flexible: works well with others
- organized: knows when he/she is scheduled and keeps audio-visual equipment in order
- reliable: prompt attendance at Band rehearsals
- attentive: keeps eyes up front and anticipates cues
- technically courageous: willing to learn and understand audio connections, sound board operation, video presentation, and/or recording software