

RHC Worship

Band Guide

Welcome

We are SO glad that you've chosen to serve with us! We want you to feel at home so you can find fulfillment and joy as you give your time and talent. Remember that as a member of this team, we've got your back! Read the info below so you're ready and aware of all you need to know.

Purpose

[RHC worship] is a team of musicians and vocalists using their creative gifts to invite the church to sing and celebrate who God is and what He has done. We do this for the purpose of helping the church to worship God more freely and fully.

Defining Worship

Music and singing are specific expressions of worship but truly defining worship is a much bigger concept.

Worship is a demonstration that something has worth. What has worth to us is revealed by how we live: what we talk about most, how we spend our time, and where we spend our money. Because we are always talking and spending our limited time and resources, we are always functionally worshipping something or someone.

We want to equip the church to understand worship as an all-of-life expression while also exploring the beauty of worship through songs.

Core Beliefs About Worship

- Everything and everyone exists for the worship of God. (Psalm 66:4, Psalm 100:104, Psalm 150:6, Revelation 4:11)
- The natural tendency of the human heart is to worship anything but God. (Judges 2:19, Jeremiah 17:9, Matthew 6:24, Colossians 3:5, Ephesians 5:5)
- Jesus is the center of proper worship, magnified by the Spirit to the glory of God the Father. (Romans 5:12-21, Hebrews 13:15, Galatians 2:20, 1 Timothy 2:5-6, John 14:6, John 1:3, 1 Corinthians 14:15-17, John 4:24, Romans 8:26-27)

Expressions of Worship

Worship takes many forms in the Bible both expressed individually (Ephesians 5:19, Psalm 4:4) and corporately (Ephesians 5:19, Psalm 22:22) including:

- Singing (Psalm 100:1-2, Psalm 95:1-2, Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 5:19, Psalm 147:1, James 5:13, Psalm 13:6)
- Playing Instruments (Psalm 150:1-6, Psalm 33:3, 2 Samuel 6:1-23, Psalm 149:3, Revelation 14:2, 2 Chronicles 5:13)
- Shouting (Psalm 33:3, Psalm 81, Ezra 3:11:13, Psalm 98:4, Isaiah 12:6, Psalm 100:1-5)
- Clapping (Psalm 47:1)
- Dancing (Psalm 150:4, Psalm 149:3)
- Praying (Psalm 141:2, 1 Timothy 2, Acts 2, Matthews 6:10)
- Communion (1 Corinthians 11:25, Luke 22:19-20, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17)
- Giving (John 3:16, 2 Corinthians 9:7, Luke 21:1-4, Proverbs 11:24-25, 1 Timothy 6:18-19)
- Reflection / Meditation (Joshua 1:8, Psalm 19:14, Psalm 119:15, Philippians 4:8, Psalm 143:5, Psalm 77:12)
- Kneeling (Psalm 95:6, Philippians 2:10, Romans 14:11)
- Lifting Hands (Psalm 63:4, Psalm 134:2, Psalm 141:2, Lamentations 3:41, Psalm 28:2, 1 Timothy 2:8-10)
- Serving Others (Romans 12:1, Hebrews 13:16)

We carefully plan our gatherings to enhance focus and reduce distraction and believe we're free to include or exclude any of these forms to that end. Music is our primary form of worship because it's highly effective at communicating truth and expressing human emotion.

Team Values

The following, non-exhaustive list of values shapes and drives the DNA of our team and how we function. We want our team members to agree with and embody these values:

- **Jesus is at the center, not the side.** We won't settle for anything less than Jesus as the primary focus of all that we do.
- **Relationships over raw skill.** We believe relationships more than skills are what makes our team great.
- **Creativity with consistency.** We want to explore new methods while remaining true to our unchanging message.
- **Less is more.** We want to try to achieve the most with the least. We are ok with silence and empty space.
- **Passion over perfection.** We want our passion for Jesus to drive us more than our pursuit of perfection.

Expectations

We ask that all Team members regularly review and strive to meet these general expectations:

- **Participate** in Worship Gatherings regularly even when not scheduled.
- **Serve** from start to finish when scheduled.
- **Be committed** to the community of Redemption Hill Church (seek to be known and to know others more fully especially when off stage).
- **Prioritize** personal practice and attending scheduled rehearsals.
- **Contribute** to discussions and team decisions.
- **Respond** within 48 hours to scheduling requests.
- **Strive** to be someone people want to follow (have a leader's mindset especially when off stage).
- **Be committed** to growing and helping others grow through receiving and giving constructive, encouraging feedback.
- **Care** for your instrument and/or voice through the lens of stewardship.
- **Have fun!**

How We Do Things

Auditions

Every team member must complete a musical audition prior to being added to the team. This audition serves as a checkpoint to confirm the person will add to and not subtract from the strength of the team. Auditions can be completed in two ways: **either in person during a scheduled live audition** event or at **any time by sending in audition videos**.

Evaluation of auditions can be broken down into these basic concepts:

- timing / rhythm
- tuning / pitch / tone
- confidence / energy / attitude

Proficiency in these areas is expected from each of our team members and is important for leading our church with excellence.

Scheduling

Scheduling is done using [Planning Center Services](#). Planning Center Services allows us to provide user access to the order of our gatherings, practice resources and links, and to send scheduling requests to all team members across all teams.

We expect team members to be available to serve at least twice per month. This includes attending rehearsal as well as Sunday morning.

We expect team members to respond to scheduling requests within 48 hours. If you are unsure of whether you'll be available and the 48 hour deadline comes, it's best to decline so we can find a replacement for that week.

We expect team members to use BLOCK OUTs in planning center for planned unavailability. This allows team leads to schedule farther out with confidence giving the team more time for preparation.

Selecting Songs

We believe strongly that songs are either a help or a hindrance to having a correct view of God and therefore take great care in selecting songs for the church.

We ask the following questions when selecting songs:

- Does the song as a whole enhance the focus on Jesus or distract from Him?
- Do the lyrics accurately quote, paraphrase, or represent scripture?
- Do the lyrics resonate with the person / people leading the song? Why?
- Is the song musically possible for the vocalists/players who will lead it?
- Is the song singable for our congregation and relatable to our church family?
- How do we expect the church to receive this song lyrically and/or musically?

Finalizing Setlists

Songs will be added to Planning Center Services at least 2 weeks in advance of the Worship Gathering and should be considered 90% final. For further clarity, **songs keys and arrangements are considered flexible all the way through Sound Check.** If you are uncomfortable with this adjustment let us know and we can send resources on learning this skill set.

Chord Charts

We provide digital access to lead sheet style chord charts for all songs to team members for at home practice and rehearsal use. These chord charts are simple chord names above lyrics that outline the basic structure of the song arrangement. Sheet music may be available in some cases but this is an exception, not the norm.

Music Stands / iPads on Stage

We want band members to feel confident in the chords, lyrics, and arrangements of songs we play and recognize the importance of having printed / digital charts for practice and rehearsal settings. However, these helpful tools can become a distraction and even a barrier for connecting with one another and with the congregation when used during Worship Gatherings. Therefore, **we ask that team members come to events with music learned as to not rely on charts.** A limited number of music stands and iPad mounts are available for use during rehearsals and sound checks.

Lyric Confidence Screen

We project a stage display / confidence screen onto the rear wall of the sanctuary. During songs, this will show slide lyrics and chord numbers. **This is meant as a safety net and reminder tool and should not be read from.**

Click / Guides

We play with a click (metronome) for every song in order to play consistently in tempo and play together. **It's expected that every team member can consistently play in tempo with the click.** In addition, most songs have a guide cue track where a prerecorded voice will announce the section of the song that's coming up. For example, a measure ahead of a verse, it will say "Verse 2 3 4" into the in-ear monitor mixes. This is meant as a reminder of where an arrangement is heading and team members should still expect to learn the structure of songs.

Tracks

Tracks are pre-recorded instrumental parts that play in time with the click and are generated by the same program controlling the click and guides. These are meant to supplement what team members are playing and to assist during rehearsals when team members are unavailable. The system we use is flexible and makes it possible to adjust everything (tempos, keys, arrangements, song order, etc) during rehearsal and on the fly so we are in no way restricted by this tool.

To be clear, **we always prefer a live person to play parts and empower every team member to request tracks be muted if they are in any way conflicting with what they are playing.**

Monitoring

We provide self-controlled personal mixes for every team member both during midweek rehearsals and on stage during Worship Gatherings.

Earphones / Headphones

We have shared pairs of in-ear earphones available for rehearsal and for Worship Gatherings. These have interchangeable tips that are changed per person for sanitary purposes.

Team members may bring their own earphones / headphones as long as they do not have an inline microphone on the cable (these TRRS jacks won't work with our systems).

While we do allow over-the-ear headphones, typically these are not recommended because they are more noticeable and can send the message of being more removed from participation.

Practice

We expect all team members to make time personally for at-home practice in preparation for rehearsals and for Worship Gatherings. While everyone is different, it is generally expected that when playing on a Sunday, at least 1 hour of personal time will be set aside for practice outside of rehearsal and sound checks.

The goal of practice should be to get to the point where you can play or sing your part with accuracy, consistency, and expression.

Rehearsal

Rehearsal is not the same as practice. The purpose of rehearsal is not for learning songs or playing through them for the first time but instead for bringing together what we've been working on individually. For clarity, **we expect team members to come to rehearsal with at least some practice time already completed.** Practice will also naturally follow rehearsals as gaps are exposed individually and provide focus leading into the actual Gathering.

Sound Check

Sound Check is a playthrough of some or all of the songs before a Worship Gathering. The primary purpose of a Sound Check is to make sure that the Live Audio and Broadcast Audio engineers are receiving balanced volume levels and usable tone from the instruments and voices. Because of this, we expect all team members to respect and contribute to this process by:

- Being ready to start on time.
- Being “warmed up” so that we give the sound tech a performance level signal.
- Not playing when someone else is talking, praying, or checking levels.
- Speaking up with confidence if you have a question or need.
- Receiving feedback from Production Team members.

Tardiness

If you are going to be late, please text or call the scheduled Worship Leader (you can find this in Planning Center). Tardiness affects the entire team and sometimes other teams as well and hinders smooth preparation for Worship Gatherings. Please do what you can to arrive consistently on time or early.

Cancellations

Before you cancel after accepting a request, pause to understand the impact of this decision on the team. Remember that time will have to be spent finding a replacement, adjusting song arrangements, and even having to replace songs that team members will have to learn or even play without ample practice / rehearsal time.

If you have to cancel, please text or call the scheduled Worship Leader.

We completely understand cancellations are unavoidable but because we're a team, we want to all take responsibility for avoiding cancellations as much as possible.

Dress Code / Clothing

While we want to be the least restrictive as possible with clothing requirements, we do believe it's important to set standards for dress as a team for Worship Gatherings.

As a general rule, we ask that everyone on our team dress as a “host” of an event (how you would dress if you were inviting people to an event you were hosting).

Practically, this means:

- Clean and [modest](#) (no attention-grabbing colors or choices)
- No flip flops, Crocs, or similar please
- T-shirts are ok as long as they meet requirements above

If you have a specific question or hesitation about something you're going to wear, err on the side of caution or contact your Worship Leader.

Water Bottles

Team members may have water bottles accessible on stage during rehearsals and sound checks but should remove or hide these before and during Worship Gatherings.

We've found that water bottles are more noticeable on video and can be a distraction depending on their size and color. If a vocalist needs access to water during a Gathering, find a spot to hide it when not in use.

Parking

We want to put others first and be the lead servants on Sundays. This begins in the parking lot when team members park in spots furthest away in order to leave the closer spots for those who need them. If a team member needs to park closer for health reasons this is perfectly acceptable. Just think of others as much as possible.

Final Word

Ultimately, this is not meant as a rule book. What we do is a great privilege and is a ton of fun when we're all on the same page moving the same direction. We love getting to play music and explore creativity for our enjoyment and for God's glory. And remember: we're better and stronger together than we are alone. Let's do this together!