

Sound Check Expectations

This document is to help set a goal for a good sound check for worship and speakers. Having a standard to work toward each sound check helps to ensure a COF cultured environment for every service.

Expectations for Worship Sound Check

1. Setting Gains

- **Instruments:**
 - Check each instrument individually, ensuring the input gain is set to the appropriate level for clarity and dynamic range without distortion.
 - Balance each instrument to sit comfortably within the overall mix.
- **Vocals:**
 - Perform a gain check for each vocalist individually, ensuring consistency across all singers.
 - Prioritize clarity and ensure no clipping occurs during louder dynamics.

2. Tuning EQ and Compression

- **Instruments:**
 - **EQ:** Fine-tune EQ for each instrument to eliminate muddiness or harsh frequencies while maintaining the natural tone of the instrument.
 - **Compression:** Apply compression as needed to control dynamics without losing the expressiveness of the instrument.
- **Vocals:**
 - **EQ:** Tailor EQ for each vocalist, emphasizing clarity (e.g., cutting low-mid muddiness and boosting high frequencies for presence).
 - **Compression:** Set light to moderate compression to maintain evenness while allowing the vocal dynamics to shine.

3. Blend and Monitor Mixes

- Create a balanced mix that allows the worship team to hear themselves and each other clearly.
 - Double-check all in-ear or stage monitor mixes, confirming with each team member that their mix is comfortable and clear.
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Expectations for Speaking Microphones

1. Gain and Tone Check

- Ensure the speaker's microphone gain is set to a level that avoids feedback while providing clarity and headroom.
- Adjust EQ to enhance vocal clarity:
 - Roll off low-end frequencies to reduce rumble or handling noise.
 - Add subtle boosts to mid-high frequencies for intelligibility.

2. Mic Technique

- Review proper microphone technique with the speaker:
 - Hold the microphone 6–12 inches from the mouth.
 - Speak directly into the microphone for consistent sound quality.
 - Avoid pointing the microphone toward monitors or speakers to prevent feedback.

3. Test Background Audio

- Play background audio while the speaker talks to simulate live service conditions.
- Adjust the speaker's microphone level to ensure clarity and presence over the background audio without sounding overpowering.
- Confirm that the speaker feels comfortable with the microphone and background levels.

General Sound Check Guidelines

- **Be Efficient:** Sound check is not rehearsal. Focus on technical adjustments, ensuring each element is ready for the service.
- **Communicate Clearly:** Guide the worship team and speakers through the process with clear instructions and feedback.
- **Eliminate Distractions:** Address and resolve all sound issues before the service begins to create a seamless experience.
- **Focus on Excellence:** Use this time to honor God by ensuring every detail is prepared with intentionality.