

CARY ALLIANCE CHURCH WORSHIP TEAM

Expectations and Policies

*Sing to Him a new song;
Play skillfully with a shout of joy.
Psalm 33:3*

Purpose

We are glad you have committed to be a part of the worship team at Cary Alliance Church. Know that above all, our purpose in singing and playing on the worship team is to worship God and to lead others in worship. All the songs we sing are deeply rooted in Scripture and through that, we teach Scripture and theology to those in the congregation (Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 5:19). We are not here to put on a concert or entertain. While we are to offer our best sacrifice of praise through our music and are to create music that is excellent and enjoyable to listen to, we do it to point others toward Christ and not toward ourselves. We do this by utilizing a variety of Biblically sound songs from contemporary worship to hymns, done in a way that is musically and artistically appealing, and ministers to a variety of ages and backgrounds. If a song is musically excellent, singable and congregational, adaptable to our instrumentation (electric & acoustic guitars, piano, bass, drums, keys, etc.), and theologically solid, we can use it as fitting to the worship service. We want to soak the congregation in the Word before the sermon is even preached, no matter what style or era a song may be from. Styles and sounds change but the Word of God remains the same (Matthew 25:35).

Spiritual Expectations

You can be the most gifted musician in the church, but if you are not living a life of worship continually during the week, you have missed the point of what we do. Everyone who gets on the platform is seen as an example and is in a way, a face of the church. It is important to be actively walking the Christian walk and be above reproach (Hebrews 13:7, 1 Peter 3:16, 1 Tim 3). Worship team members must be:

- Active in the Word and in prayer
- Diligent and faithful in their roles with their family
- Desiring to build community among the church
- Humble, approaching the task with a servant's heart
- Living a Godly lifestyle, above reproach
- Seeking to grow spiritually and with their gifts
- Regularly attending Cary Alliance Church when not scheduled to serve on the team
- Submissive and respectful to the church leadership and supportive of the church's vision and goals.

- Outward sinful expressions indicate a greater struggle with sin within and will affect your involvement with the worship team. You are accountable to the worship pastor and the rest of the church leadership. Please let us help you and counsel you if you are struggling with sin in your life.

Schedule Requirements

Along with the spiritual qualifications that are expected of anyone serving on the worship team, good stewardship of time and effort is a major requirement in order to best serve one another, the congregation, and most importantly God (Colossians 3:23-24, Matthew 25:31, 1 Peter 4:10).

- Rehearsal is weekly on Thursday evenings. Vocalists run through vocal arrangements at 6:30 and Instrumentalists join at 7.
- In order to maximize our time and be considerate of those who have further to drive than others, let us commit to start vocal run-throughs at **6:30 on the dot**, and be able to start rehearsing with the full band **right at 7:10**.
 - o You **MUST** go to Thursday night rehearsal in order to participate in the Sunday service.
- On Sunday mornings, we meet at 8:15 to rehearse before the service. We should be ready to play **right at 8:25**.
- Punctuality is important. It benefits everyone to be on time and prepared. If you have to be late for some reason, let Pastor Danny know by text at (660) 596-9866 or email at danny@caryalliance.org. Consistent tardiness will result in being taken off the schedule.
- About every three months, the schedule is updated through Planning Center Online. Please check over your schedule regularly and block out any times in PCO that you know you will be unavailable for. If there is nothing blocked out, it will be assumed that you are available. If you have to cancel an assignment for which you previously committed, please let Pastor Danny know at least two weeks in advance as you are able to. Some things come up at the last minute, and that is very understandable, so please make every effort to communicate it to Pastor Danny ASAP. Consistent absences and last-minute cancellations will result in being taken off the schedule.
- Scheduling is done based on the frequency preferences of each team member. If you wish to serve more or less often, please indicate your desire to Pastor Danny.

Rehearsal and Worship Service Requirements

As well as being good managers of our time, we need to put forth the effort in exercising our gifts for the glory of God. While musical excellence is not everything, it is important that we give our “first fruits” to the Lord as we offer unto Him a sacrifice of praise.

- Early in the week, the songs are chosen and sent out with the sheet music and recordings available through PCO. Details are communicated via email. Please listen to and be familiar with the songs **before** rehearsal, especially if you have never heard the song before. Practice them as you have time as well. We do not expect perfection, but rather a good familiarity with the material so the group can put it together more easily. Vocalists do not use music stands on Sunday morning, so be sure to learn your parts well.
- Individual practice beyond preparing for Sunday services is important as well, even if you are not scheduled for the week. Spend time refining and maintaining your skills with your voice or instrument (i.e. playing to a metronome, playing scales, reviewing music theory, studying chords/harmony, etc.) and it will be a strong asset as you participate with the worship team.
- Play/sing appropriately for the situation. Know how your instruments work within a worship band context and play to compliment the song without overplaying or pushing the dynamics excessively. By the same token, be creative! Feel free to experiment and try new things in rehearsal if they fit the song well, though have your parts fully developed by Sunday morning.
- If you need any assistance, please do not be afraid to ask questions. If you need more help than a rehearsal provides, please talk to Pastor Danny and he will help you practice and refine areas that are challenging.
- Be willing to receive direction and criticism. Direction and criticism are not meant to discourage, but rather to encourage and strengthen you in your craft. No matter our skill level, we can always be improving in one way or another.
- Be lovingly encouraging to the other team members around you. Be willing to help them out if you can sense that they need assistance. Build one another up.
- Be courteous of the other team members and stay on the task at hand. Avoid playing your instrument or talking when direction is given or someone is asking a question or stating a comment pertaining to rehearsal.
- Feel free to offer suggestions or requests in a loving manner. We are a team playing group that takes advantage of the strengths of its members. While everything is listened to with consideration, Pastor Danny has the final say on rehearsal matters so please be courteous and gracious when offering your opinions.

Platform Presence

As we are leading the congregation in worship, it is important to help point them to Christ not only through our musical excellence, but also by our presentation. While God looks at the heart and that ultimately matters more than the outer appearance, please be considerate of our brothers and sisters in the congregation as to not be a distraction in how we present ourselves.

Dress

We also provide worship leadership in the way we dress. There are a variety of clothing styles today that look nice, and we want you to be free to dress in a manner that is comfortable and within your tastes, avoiding any distraction from worship. In that, we do ask that all attire be modest, comfortably fitting, neat, logo-free, and current. If you have a question about whether something is appropriate, feel free to ask. In general, to avoid distraction, it is best to err on the side of simplicity and modesty.

Body Language

Your movement and facial expressions are also to be considered as you are helping lead the congregation in worship. Be loose and free to move around reasonably, not remaining in a fixed shoegazing position with a bored facial expression, which can result from intense concentration. Singers, don't be glued to the projection screen on the back wall. Instrumentalists, don't be buried in your music. Pay attention to the congregation and engage with them. Smile and reflect the nature of your praise to God through your facial expressions. Our personalities are all different and while you should do nothing without sincerity or with exaggeration, do allow for the outward expression of what is in your heart to come though intentionally and naturally. Enthusiasm displayed by the worship team encourages the congregation to express themselves in worship.

"Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!"
Psalm 115:1

I _____ have read through the CAC Worship Team expectations and policies and commit to upholding them to the best of my ability.

Sign: _____ Date: _____