

# The Worship Team Musicianship Checklist

Use this checklist as a tool to find ways to level-up the musicianship of your worship team members. Do NOT use it as the definitive guide for what your team needs to grow as musicians. Every worship team is different. This checklist is a *starting point* for you and your team exploring how to go deeper as musicians.

- Your team members can successfully play/sing with a click or a metronome without getting off tempo.
- Your team understands how to play/sing on tight and together.
- Each team member understands all the different roles his/her instrument might play in any given arrangement.
- Your team members understand how to self-arrange—that is, fit into the rhythmic and sonic spectrums of a song without stepping on other players' parts or roles.
- Your team members understand "laying out" (not playing or singing) as a valuable musical contribution to certain portions of a song or even portions of a set?
- Each instrument understands how to listen to each other and complement each other both rhythmically and sonically.
- Each team member listens to the scheduled music as part of their preparation.
- Your team prepares prior to rehearsal, learning their parts to a level that allows them to fully participate in rehearsal without being hindered?
- You provide a reference recording of what you want the song to sound like, so each team member understands the part he/she needs to learn.
- Your team fully participates in rehearsals, sound-checks, warm-ups and services—coming in prepared and on-time so you can begin your rehearsals at your posted start time?
- You plan songs far enough in advance so team members can practice prior to rehearsal?
- You provide charts and recordings for each song at least one week before the service so your team has time to prepare?
- You write preparation/rehearsal notes for each song to enable your team members to practice more effectively?
- You have a document (policy/guide/handbook) explaining what your musical expectations are for each instrument?

- You offer regularly scheduled training events throughout the year to develop the skill and musicianship of your team members?
  - You have a document (policy/guide/handbook) explaining what your expectations for preparation are—this includes personal practice, and rehearsal and soundcheck participation?
  - You plan out the flow and focus of rehearsals ahead of time?
  - Your team understands how critical solid musicianship is for accompanying the “sung worship” of your church.
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Learn how to get your team to learn the right parts, play tight and together, and make every Sunday sound consistently excellent!



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