

Solo/Ensemble Ministry

The choir and orchestra are the core of the Music Ministry. Being a soloist/ensemble member is a position of responsibility as well as privilege. There is a higher standard for those who are given this opportunity. Therefore, you should model commitment in the choir or orchestra. Faithfulness to the core ministry validates the effectiveness of your ministry and avoids creating the image that you are a spotlight musician. Those who have been blessed by the Lord with exceptional talent should certainly consider participation in all special concerts and seasonal productions as expected. Please know that we want to use soloists/ensemble members who are gifted musically, but who also have a passion and love for Christ. The heart is as important as the talent.

Below are some specific suggestions to enable us to work together in the most effective manner and to enable you to serve at your maximum potential.

1) A soloist/ensemble member must maintain a 75% attendance unless there are temporary extenuating circumstances.

2) Only those people who have been heard at an individually scheduled appointment, and have been introduced to the philosophy of the music ministry and solo/ensemble ministry will be scheduled. This is a great time for you to ask questions and to get to know your music staff better.

3) When you are scheduled to sing/play, you may involve other FBC music ministry members if they have met the solo/ensemble requirements. Involving anyone outside the church should be cleared with one of the music ministers.

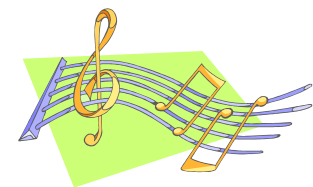
4) To be able to do the best possible job, the soloist should:

- a. Select the music well in advance.
- b. Notify accompanists of your needs well in advance.
- c. Vocalists should memorize your solo. The more the words have become a part of you, the more eye contact you can make and the better the communication.
- d. Vocalists should examine the text carefully to make certain it has the depth and meaning you wish to communicate.
- e. The soloist should sit on the front row or outside of the loft on Sunday morning or on the front row of the Worship Center for an evening service.
- f. Be in place and ready to sing or play at the scheduled time during the service so as not to delay the flow.

- g. Dresses should not be visible below choir robes. Slacks, shoes, etc. should not distract.
- h. If you are singing at a time that a uniform is not specified, appropriate attire is essential. You should dress modestly so as to not cause focus or attention to you. Talking prior to singing is not recommended but if necessary, must be kept brief. A scripture is always appropriate. My experience is that soloists spend hours preparing for the message in music, but many times they will talk prior to their solo with little or no preparation. If you feel led to talk, prepare! If a song must be explained, choose another selection.

5) The soloist should return the information sheet, that will be mailed to you, and have a copy of your text available two weeks prior to the day you are scheduled to sing. Then, plan to sing/play your solo on the Wednesday evening following choir rehearsal 1½ weeks prior to your scheduled

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Sunday. You should sing/play for any of the music ministers.

6) The sound check on Sunday mornings is at 8:45 a.m. in the Worship Center. For Sunday evenings, the sound check is 6:30 p.m. Following your sound check, a member of the music ministry staff would like to pray with you for the effectiveness of your ministry in the service to follow.

7) Clear any solo that would be considered longer than normal with one of the music ministers prior to learning the selection.

8) A ♪ from Kathy (church pianist) If you are scheduled to sing/play a solo in an upcoming service and would like to have piano or synthesizer accompaniment, I will be

happy to make a practice tape for you. Please provide me with the music at least one week before you need the tape. If you have any questions, please call me at 972/317-8960 or e-mail

me at piano1@rocketmail.com

9) It is acceptable to use accompanists other than the church pianist and organist. You must be certain that they are capable of proficiently accompanying you.

10) A schedule of soloists will be printed in the monthly "First Notes". You are requested not to make swaps or adjustments in the schedule if you have a conflict with the time scheduled. Instead, you are requested to work through the minister of music or the ministry assistants so that the necessary changes are coordinated through the music office.

Prayerfully consider these guidelines and allow yourself to accept them with the intent in which they were written...a desire to work together to make each worship service a meaningful encounter with the Lord. Thank you for giving of your time and talent in service to Him! You are appreciated!



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Solo Ensemble Ministry

A Place to Belong



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