

Providence Church Music Team

BASIC SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

The following is a rough list of required skill sets for different instrumentalists for Sundays at Providence Church. Our hope is not to set the bar unnecessarily high, but rather to cultivate an environment of “undistracting excellence,” flexibility, and beauty in Sunday services. *Note: While this is a list of competencies, this list does not address the great importance of character or community involvement.*

To Every Music Team Member:

- We hope to image Christ to one another as we prepare to lead his people to behold and exalt him. This begins with a humble, others-oriented posture, both in regard to the notes and precision played and sung, but also in the attitudes and postures towards others.
- We typically send out Sunday set lists on the Wednesday or Thursday before the upcoming Sunday service. Because we currently don't have more than a Sunday pre-service rehearsal, we must require a slightly higher degree of competency than some other worship contexts. If you need more than a couple days to be ready, this might be a challenging scenario for you.
- Typically, we ask musicians to play parts similar to a specific recording, other times we'll ask you to come with some ideas for parts. So, all our musicians need to feel comfortable with both.
- There is a chance we will occasionally change songs or keys to an alternate option between Wednesday and Sunday, so musicians ought to be confident enough to roll with the punches and execute with a degree of precision with minor tweaks made during the Sunday AM rehearsal.

Vocalists are:

- comfortable singing consistent melodies and harmonies
- able to maintain strong pitch at moderately wide range of notes
- able to maintain firm tempo/timing (to a click track)
- able to blend stylistically with the band for a given song/style

Rhythm/Acoustic Guitarists (including banjo and mandolin) are:

- able to comfortably read and play chord charts in all keys (transposing/utilizing a capo when necessary)
- able to play with unvaried tempo with the band (to a click track)
- able to play with varied strumming patterns based on each song and time signature
- able to blend stylistically with the band for a given song/style

Electric/Lead Guitarists are:

- able to comfortably read and play chord charts in all keys (including transposing to any key)
- able to learn and play lead line melodies
- have a working knowledge of guitar tones and personally own all necessary gear
- play in tempo with a band (to a click track)
- able to improvise tactfully (always considering our intentions of undistracted excellence)
- able to blend stylistically with the band for a given song

Keyboardists/Pianists are:

- able to comfortably read and play chord charts in all keys (transposing when necessary)
- able to play on tempo with a band (to a click track)
- preferably able to learn lead lines in advance and play them alongside chords
- able to blend stylistically with the band for a given song

Drummers/Percussionists are:

- able to comfortably read and play chord charts with measure markers
- able to play with precision and understated excellence
- able to play different time signatures comfortably and confidently (3/4, 4/4, 6/8, and 5/4 are common)
- able to comfortably play alongside and operate a click track (we use the “Tempo” app)
- able to signal and start songs
- able to provide variation between beats, rhythms, and styles with tasteful fills
- able to quickly change different beats for songs and have a working knowledge of rhythm jargon
- able to play with control and/or lighter sticks/brushes to adapt to our sanctuary
- able to blend stylistically with the band for a given song

Bassists are:

- able to read chord charts (or number charts) and play in every key comfortably
- able to play in tempo with a band and lock in with a drummer’s groove (along with a click track)
- preferably able to add appropriate and complementary interim notes
- able to blend stylistically with the band for a given song

Stringed instrumentalists (violin, viola, cello, pedal steel guitar, etc.) are:

- able to read chord charts (or number charts) and play comfortably in every key
- able to learn and play lead line melodies and improvise counter melodies with other lead instruments
- play in tempo with a band (to a click track)
- preferably able to improvise tactfully
- able to blend stylistically with the band for a given song

Play something else? Email Jordan Hurst (jordan@providenceaustin.com)