

# PHILOSOPHY OF MUSIC

## GRACE CHURCH OF SUNBURY, OHIO

### *Mission Statement*

*“As a Music Team we strive to play skillfully unto the Lord in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Making melody in our hearts for the glory of God and the edification of His church.”*

[\(Psalm 33:3\)](#) [\(Psalm 95:1\)](#) [\(Psa. 150:6\)](#) [\(Heb. 13:15\)](#) [\(Eph. 5:19\)](#) [\(1Cor. 10:31\)](#)

### **Introduction**

The following document is the Philosophy of Music as held by Grace Church of Sunbury. As Christians, a church, and a music team we seek to bring honor, glory and worship to God in all that we do [\(1 Cor. 10:31\)](#). One of the avenues God has created to worship Him, is through music [\(Psalm 95:1\)](#) [\(Psa. 150:6\)](#) [\(Heb. 13:15\)](#). We worship Him using both instrumentation and vocalization [\(Psalm 33:3\)](#) [\(Psalm 95:1\)](#), both individually and corporately [\(Psa. 150:6\)](#) [\(Heb. 13:15\)](#) [\(Eph. 5:19\)](#), both in spirit and in truth [\(John 4:24\)](#).

### Purpose of the Document

It is a blessing, a necessity, and a command for followers of Christ to gather with fellow believers [\(Ephesians 2:19-20\)](#) [\(Heb. 10:24-25\)](#). One of the practices we participate in when we gather is singing to God and each other through psalms, hymns and spiritual songs [\(Col. 3:16\)](#) [\(Heb. 2:12\)](#). This document provides the structure for Grace Church to take biblical truth regarding music and apply it practically to our corporate gatherings. As Grace Church grows, changes, and adapts to the local needs of the gospel, our music team will hold to this Philosophy of Music as the foundation and standard for which we will continually return to for biblical accountability in corporate worship both now and in future generations.

## Core Values

The following are the values that each song sung and played by Grace Church must possess, based on biblical criteria.

- Theological Accuracy - Music selected should align with the orthodox beliefs of the Christian faith and the [confession of faith](#) of Grace Church.
- Congregational Participation - Music will be sung corporately as a local body of believers. Corporate worship will take priority over performance-based worship. The church corporately praises God, not the music team alone ([Heb. 2:12](#)).
- Diverse Genres - There is no particular era, culture, or style that holds a monopoly on what is considered approved Christian music. Scripture is clear that all nations, tribes, peoples, and languages are part of the kingdom of heaven and that all things created in heaven and on earth bring praise to the Lord; that includes musical genres ([Rev. 7:9-10](#)). Grace Church will sing God honoring music written in the past, present, and future. Scripture is clear that songs, hymns, and spiritual songs are all to be utilized in the worship of our Lord, and for the edification of believers ([Eph. 5:19](#)).
- Musical Excellence - We will not strive for perfection (for humans are imperfect) but we will strive for our best ([Psalm 33:3](#)). Just as Abel brought his best before the Lord ([Gen. 4](#)) we as a church will bring our best to Him in all that we sing and play.

## Practical Criteria

### Roles within the music team

There are two main ways to be a part of the Grace Church Music team, these items include:

Vocalist and/or Musician.

### Who can be a part of the music team?

If one desires to join the music team there are some criteria that must be met in order to uphold our desire to play skillfully and to edify our fellow believers.

1. Must be a member of Grace Church in good standing
2. Must possess the ability to fill the desired role in a way that is skillful and edifying
3. Must uphold commitments made to the music team in both practices and gatherings
4. Must maintain an attitude of humility and servanthood both to the church and the music team

### Music Selection

Song choices will be discerned using the Spirit, the Word, and under the direction of the Elders and others individuals as delegated.

The following is the criteria for music selection using the Core Values of Grace Church Music Team:

1. Theological Accuracy - Is the song biblically accurate in word and message? Does it stir the soul to worship both in spirit and truth? Does it speak truthfully of God's truth, character, will and decree?
2. Congregational Participation - Does the song encourage collective group singing? Is the song key singable for both men and women? Is the song lyrically and musically focused? Is the song musically deep but *lacking lyrical* depth? Is the song lyrically deep but *lacking musical* depth?
3. Diverse Genres - Do song choices range from psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs? Do song choices range from multiple eras, cultures and styles? Do song choices range in pace, perspective and volume?
4. Musical Excellence - Is the music team able to play and sing the song choices in a skillful and edifying way? Is the music team diligent in both personal and

collective practice? Are there certain instruments that are unhelpful to the overall sound? Or is there a lack of instrumentation that is needed? Is there a member of the music team that needs some guidance or training on how to use their gifting?

5. Defer Personal Preference - We must recognize that any person choosing songs has a certain preference, perspective, and skillset. This is good, normal and to be expected. As long as each song is biblically accurate, all members can defer to one another ([Gal. 5:13](#)) ([1 Corn. 8:9](#)) ([1 Corn. 10:29](#)). In each case we are to exercise spiritual maturity, and do all things without grumbling and arguing ([Phil. 2:14-15](#)).

### Effectiveness

Each year the Music Team will have a collective time together where we can discuss both the spiritual and practical health of our ministry.

Using Scripture, this Philosophy of Music document, each other as fellow members, and the guidance of Elders we will:

1. Discuss what it is we are doing well
2. Discuss areas we need to improve
3. Create a plan to maintain consistency and improve effectiveness

### **Conclusion**

As it states in [Ecclesiastes 12](#), “...when all has been heard, the conclusion of the matter is this: fear God and keep his commands.” Let us hold to this as Christians, a church, and a music team and effectively fulfill the purpose of this ministry:

*“...to play skillfully unto the Lord in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Making melody in our hearts for the glory of God and the edification of His church.”*