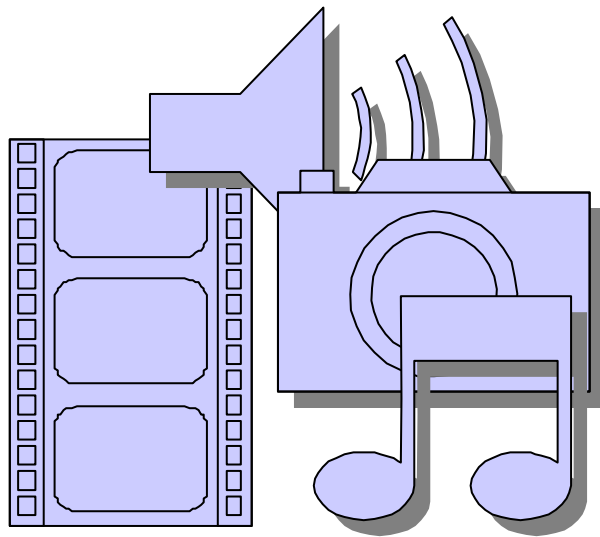


**WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRY OF
NORTHPARK COMMUNITY
CHURCH
fresno, CA**



**Worship Ministries
Handbook**

PREFACE

The purpose of this manual is to be a comprehensive source of information for the Worship Arts ministry. It contains schedules, expectations, privileges; contact information and teaching that will hopefully assist you in making and maintaining your commitment to this area of ministry. In producing a single source of information, the goal is that we can operate more effectively. The items written are not meant to be legalistic but promote unity and oneness of direction as we grow in love of Christ and one another.

The Worship Arts ministry is an awesome way to express your love and reverence for God to God. Even greater than this is a life that testifies of what we sing about. I've heard it said that, *"You can't really sing the blues until you have experienced the blues."* Worship is the same way. We can sing the words and they may sound good and everyone who hears may be pleased and excited, but unless we are experiencing worship on a personal level through a relationship with Jesus Christ our worship is worthless. This does not mean that we have to be perfect in order for us to worship God as He desires, we just have to be in the process of perfecting ourselves through the word, prayer, and fasting. We have to be in a place where we allow the Holy Spirit of God to work in our hearts.

The first thing I would ask of you if you desire to be a part of the W.A. ministry here at Northpark, is that you commit yourself to a life in desperate pursuit of Christ by His Word.

The second thing I would ask is that you pray and seek direction from God regarding the gifts He has placed in you. God has given all of us gifts and purpose.

Third, understand that this is a position of leadership. As much as we may not desire this, people will hold those who have visible positions to a higher standard than themselves.

As we work together, we will begin to see how God has placed us where we are to grow and help others grow. I am grateful that God has caused our paths to cross. My goal as your music pastor is to provide a means by which you can flourish in your purpose as a believer and have fun while ministering.

This is my commitment to you:

- I will do everything in my power to give you 100% of the ministry ability God has entrusted to me.
- I will encourage you to give 100% of the ministry ability God has entrusted to you.
- I will challenge you to be the best you can be.
- I will care about you, your family, your hopes and dreams, and God's plan for your life.

Take a look at this:

(Colossians 3:23-24) *“Work from the heart for your real Master, for God, confident that you'll get paid in full when you come into your inheritance. Keep in mind always that the ultimate Master you're serving is Christ.” (MSG)*

Together we will accomplish great things in His name for His kingdom!!!

GENERAL DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

The Worship and Arts Department encompasses Singers, Musicians, Video Production, Sound Reinforcement, Drama Ministry, Dance Ministry, Special Productions (i.e. Christmas, Easter), Sunday morning service planning, Media Reproduction, and support off-site outreach events. As you can see, there are many places for servants to be involved. These areas of ministry accomplish their purposes because of the help of the Holy Spirit and the sacrifices on the part of the participants. This department is a team and everyone on the team plays an important role whether they are ongoing or seasonal participants.

There are two categories of participants: those who are ongoing members and those who are seasonal members. **Ongoing members** are those who are a part of the worship team (musicians or vocalists), sound reinforcement, video production, and media reproduction. These areas of ministry qualify as ongoing because the participation of the members is not based upon the semester system that guides the beginning and ending of small groups and classes offered at Northpark. **Seasonal members** are those who are a part of the drama ministry, dance ministry, special productions, and off-site events. During special events like the Christmas program and Easter services, there are a lot of people who will sign up for the choir and once the final performance is over they will no longer be obligated to attend their respective rehearsals. Seasonal members follow the semester system and their participation is temporary. Whether ongoing or seasonal, the following standards have been established so we can work in harmony with one another. Team members are required to attend at least one complete service on Sunday morning. They are not allowed to play through worship and skip the sermon.

Our Vision:

The vision of the worship arts ministry is to provide a worship experience that is heartfelt, entertaining and relevant.

Mission Statement:

To provide an atmosphere that:

- encourages a relationship with God
- encourages relationships with other believers
- gives guidance for those who are new believers or do not yet know Christ

Core Values:

1. Authenticity - We believe God works best in our lives when we live authentically - being honest with others about our struggles and joys.
2. Humility - We believe that the church should exhibit a spirit of humility that is open to new ideas with the leading of the Holy Spirit.
3. Excellence - We believe that excellence honors God and inspires people.
4. Evangelism - We believe that because the Gospel is worth sharing with others we should invite people to church. (Includes relational evangelism and invitation to all church events)
5. Disciplines - We believe we should be engaged in the disciplines of spiritual life for our spiritual growth and maturity. (Includes prayer, worship, and fasting, tithing, and Bible study.)
6. Worship - We believe corporate worship should include all aspects of the performing arts to enjoy God and glorify Him. (Includes hymns, drama, praise songs, media, and dance as expressions of praise.)
7. Spiritual Gifts - We believe we should be actively serving in our areas of spiritual giftedness.
8. Biblical Literacy - We believe that Biblical literacy should be the life-goal of every Christian. (Includes understanding the Bible and knowing how to study and apply it.)
9. Stewardship - We believe that God calls us to be wise stewards of the resources He has given us. (Includes our families, money, time, talents, and resources.)
10. Healthy Unity of the Community – We never want to cause division or promote disunity in our department or in the body of Christ.

Why Do We Praise and Worship?

1. We belong to God.

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20) "Or didn't you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit? Don't you see that you can't live however you please; squandering what God paid such a high price for? The physical part of you is not some piece of property belonging to the spiritual part of you. God owns the whole works. So let people see God in and through your body." (MSG)

(Romans 12:1-2) So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life - and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. (MSG)

2. God’s word says He desires and inhabits the praise of His people.

(Psalms 100:1-5) “On your feet now - applaud God! Bring a gift of laughter, sing yourselves into his presence. Know this: God is God, and God, God. He made us; we didn’t make him. We’re his people, his well-tended sheep. Enter with the password: “Thank you!” Make yourselves at home, talking praise. Thank him. Worship him. For God is sheer beauty, all-generous in love, loyal always and ever.” (MSG)

Our creative service to God is to be an expression of our heart towards God. There are more reasons to worship God than the two mentioned above, but these are the very basic reasons. Here are some additional references on worship: 1 Peter 2:9, Psalms 9:11, Psalms 33, John 4:23-24, Ephesians 5:19.

Sunday Morning Schedule

Sunday Setup & Systems Checks.....6:30 am – 7:15 am
Sunday Sound & Video-check.....7:15 am – 7:45 am
Sunday Morning Service.....8:00 am, 9:30 am & 10:15 am

Sunday Setup & Systems Check

This time frame is when sound, video, and musical technicians can make sure their equipment is tuned and ready for the service. Sound and video technicians must be at Northpark preparing their equipment no later than 6:45 am on Sunday. Musicians and vocalists can arrive when they need to as long as they are on stage and ready by 7:15 am.

Sunday Sound & Video Check

This is when we will make sure microphones, instruments, monitors, and vocalists are at sufficient levels to proceed to service run-through. We will pick one of the day’s selections to help us determine if there are additional technical needs. If you are going to be late for sound check, then please call.

Sunday Morning Service

This is the time we have all prepared for, we want to work in concert with the Holy Spirit in the hopes that someone will come in and be drawn to Christ or a deeper relationship with Him. All of the guidelines given in this manual are so that we can work together in harmony to fulfill our contribution to the work of the ministry. Sunday morning service is our largest entry point into Northpark.

Rehearsal Schedule

Tuesday Night Rehearsal.....6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
1st Tuesday – All Department
2nd Tuesday – Vocal Rehearsal
3rd Tuesday – Band Rehearsal
4th Tuesday – All Rehearsal (Band & Worship Singers)

5th Tuesday – Party, Fellowship, Games (Kids are allowed)

1st Tuesday Rehearsal

This rehearsal is different than all of the other rehearsals because it includes all of the ongoing members of the Worship & Arts Department who do not fall under the semester system of participation. The purpose of this rehearsal is spiritual growth, vision casting, technical reviews, and rehearsal. If you are going to be a part of the worship, audio, or video teams this rehearsal is mandatory. If you need to be absent due to work, illness, family illness, or have plans to be out of town please let me know. The absence will be excused and you can meet with me during the second service on the following Sunday. If you are absent and I do not hear from you or I was not given information prior to rehearsal, the absence is automatically unexcused. I don't have a formal system from removing people from our team because I have never been forced to take such action, so we'll cross that bridge if needed. If you're a singer or musician, please take time to go over your music so that the rest of the team can continue through the material upon your return. If you're a sound or video tech, please check with your department head so you can get any tech information you may have missed due to your absence. There is childcare for this rehearsal.

2nd Tuesday – Vocal Rehearsal

This rehearsal is for vocalists only so that we can focus on text, harmony, and blend. The rehearsal starts at 6:30 pm and will be conducted with the director, singers and a keyboard. This rehearsal is the best way for me to offer a learning experience without the distraction of the band. If you need to be absent due to work, illness, family illness, or have plans to be out of town please let me know. The absence will be excused. There is childcare for this rehearsal.

3rd Tuesday – Band Rehearsal

This rehearsal is for musicians only so that we can focus on parts, texture, and blend. The rehearsal starts at 6:30 pm, but please come early enough to set up your equipment. The sound system will be in minimal use. This rehearsal is the best way for me to offer a learning experience without the distraction of the singers. If you need to be absent due to work, illness, family illness, or have plans to be out of town please let me know. The absence will be excused. There is not childcare for this rehearsal.

4th Tuesday – All Rehearsal (Band & Worship Singers)

This rehearsal is for the band and singers and starts at 6:30 pm. We will use the full sound system. If you need to be absent due to work, illness, family illness, or have plans to be out of town please let me know. The absence will be excused. There is childcare for this rehearsal.

5th Tuesday – Party, Fellowship, Games (Kids are allowed)

This event is for anyone involved in the department with no kid restrictions. It's good to just have fellowship and hang out together once and a while. These events are held

at the first home to volunteer; we eat, laugh, share and sometimes play games. It's not mandatory, but it is appreciated if you could make it.

Guidelines for Attire & Hygiene

At Northpark community church we are casual. In community/corporate worship our purpose is to help others enter into worship with as little distraction as possible. Here are some general clothing and hygiene standards:

- Dresses or skirts have to be at least 2 inches below the knees.
- No low-cut tops, tank tops, backless dresses, spaghetti straps, or halter tops.
- No see through blouses (e.g., lace) without an under blouse.
- Please wear proper under garments.
- Jeans (without holes) or Khakis are fine.
- Please DO wear deodorant.
- No PERFUME or COLOGNES (many people have allergies or asthma, and perfumes can cause adverse reactions in such individuals).

Personal hygiene is appreciated - clean body and hair, brushed teeth, clean clothing, etc. Please use discretion and good taste. Simply ask if you're not sure. Thanks.

Music Distribution

I will provide CD's, charts and staff music for the new music. It is your responsibility to request any music listed on the song list that you do not have. Here are a few things that will help you manage the increasing amount of music that you will receive:

- Please keep a notebook of the music you receive.
- Always remove all of your music from the stage at the end of rehearsal and prior to any services you are involved in.
- Feel free to make notations on your sheet music in order to help with musical dynamic in the music.

Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Enrollment Process

Here's how it goes;

- 1) There will be an audition. This consists of singing, playing or demonstrating proficiency in the area you are applying for. This will give us a good idea of your capabilities.
- 2) You will be asked to review and keep this manual as a source of information.
- 3) It is mandatory that you attend or be registered for the '01 classes.

Everyone involved is in a position of leadership. Although we may not all have the same roles and responsibilities, we all have a responsibility to lead in lifestyle and worship. Thank you for having the courage to step up to the plate.

God Bless YOU!!!!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Northpark Community Church.....(559) 322-7200, office
(559) 323-7206, fax
Website: www.northparkchurch.org

Nate Mullen.....(559) 322-7200 ext. 21
(Worship & Arts Pastor) (559) 824-8571, cell
Email: nate@northparkchurch.org

Kathy Humphrey.....(559) 905-1840, cell
(Assistant) Email: girlzhouse@comcast.net

