

BUILD YOUR OWN WORSHIP TEAM

The following is a broad overview of how to create a team of singers and instrumentalists to provide music for your campus, parish or ministry. Every situation is different, but we have listed general principles and tips to aid your endeavors. It is important to see music through the lens of mission. Music in service of prayer is not “performance,” but rather a way of offering one’s gifts to the Lord for the glory of God and to aid His children’s ability to worship. ***To engage well in the mission, it is necessary to be formed well according to the mind of the Church. Visit our [website](#) for music resources and recommended reading.***

1. IDENTIFY NEEDS

- Collaborate with the local priest, campus minister or other parish leader to get support and ideas.
 - What music needs are you looking to fill? (Mass, Eucharistic adoration, praise & worship)
- How often would you need musicians present for these various occasions? (Weekly Mass, music on retreat, etc.)

2. CONSIDER LEADERSHIP

- Whom could you potentially invite to lead this music group? Who are the people around you? Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal potential leader(s). Ask others if they know of anyone who fits the description of the leader you’re looking for.
- Set a time to connect with a potential leader. Ask about their musical experience and desire.
 - Do they have experience leading music for Mass, adoration and praise & worship?
 - What instrument(s) do they play? Are they comfortable singing and leading others in sung prayer?
- Share your goals and desires for what you are proposing, along with time commitments for the various occasions. Discuss to see if they’d be a good fit.

3. BUILD THE TEAM

- Once you’ve secured a leader, identify what other musical roles need to be filled. What instrumentation are you looking for? (It’s good to have at least one strong accompanying instrument to support the singing.)
 - Guitar, piano/keyboard, male and/or female vocalists, other (violin, percussion, drums, bass guitar, etc.)

4. SHARE VISION

Give your team the overall vision for what you’re doing and ask for commitment.

- We are each gifted with talents “for the common good” (cf. 1 Cor. 12:7). This is an opportunity to use our gifts in service of others and to come more alive in our relationship with Jesus Christ as lead worshipers.
- Share expectations: time commitment for rehearsals, learning new songs, set up and playing for the actual events
- Is this something they can commit to for a given time period? (Consistency is an advantage.)

5. EXPLORE RESOURCES

Become familiar with available music resources. Choose songs according to your needs. Invite teammates to help in the process!

- See our website for resource suggestions: www.focusoncampus.org/beauty/getinvolved/music.
- Make resources available to your team for practice prior to rehearsal.

6. PRAY & PLAY

Spend time praying together, playing music and singing the songs together. Open up rehearsals in prayer. Even your rehearsal itself is a type of prayer. Get to know the others on your team. Spend time outside of church functions to build relationships. The more you know each other — personalities, musical styles, etc. — the easier it will be for you to communicate and work together. Pray for guidance for which songs to select for a given event, and invite the Holy Spirit to work through you.

7. KEEP LEARNING

Devote yourself to [learning more](#) about the liturgy, music, and prayer. Learn new worship songs and chants. Read spiritual classics on prayer (or other topics) to help you to grow, which will make you a better worship leader who’s ever more capable of inviting others into the prayer of your own heart. Learn more about which songs fit for which occasions. Understand copyright laws. Be humble. Submit all your efforts for the glory of God and serving others. May He ever increase and we decrease.