

WELCOME!

Worshipping our Savior is the most important thing we do as believers. The Worship Choir and Orchestra ministries are designed to disciple worship leaders, provide worship leadership for our various worship services, and to give opportunities to share the gospel “outside the walls” each year.

Choir and orchestra members are asked to complete an enrollment form and attend two rehearsals before leading in Worship Encounters. Choir members are not auditioned, but a staff member will be glad to meet with you individually if you need help determining your proper voice section. Auditions are required for new Orchestra members. Even though there is a musical threshold of ability that must be met, the most important issue is God’s calling on your life and talents and a surrender to that call. We are expecting God to do great things, and we look forward to leading worship alongside you!

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sundays

- Orchestra Warm-up | 8 am, Worship Center
- Choir Warm-up | 8:35 & 10:15 am, Music Suite
- AM Worship Encounters | 9 & 10:30 am, Worship Center
- Worship LifeGroup | 9:25 am, Music Suite
- Bonus afternoon Choir & Orchestra Rehearsals as scheduled
- PM Worship Encounter | 6 pm, Worship Center

Wednesdays

- Choir Rehearsal | 7:05-8:15 pm, Music Suite
- Orchestra Rehearsal | 7:05-8:30 pm, Worship Center

CHILDCARE

Weekly childcare is provided for rehearsals and Morning Worship Encounters for children 5th grade and younger.

ATTENDANCE

You’re a vital part of our Worship family! No one can fill your place of praise when you are absent. To be our best, each member is encouraged to prioritize his or her time to be present for all rehearsals and Worship Encounters. Please do not take other meetings during rehearsal. We do understand that everyone will need to be out occasionally, so please choose one of these easy ways to let us know when you will be out and how we can pray for you:

- Contact your Worship Link
- Fill out a Known Absence Form (available at the Music Suite Desk)
- From planningcenteronline.com, click “Block-Out Dates” in the left sidebar
- Contact us at worship.crossgates.org or 601.824.2737

REHEARSALS

The Worship Choir and Orchestra lead worship weekly on Sunday mornings and some Sunday evenings. When preparing for a special event, a “Bonus Rehearsal” may be scheduled for a Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon. Rehearsals will include music scheduled for many different Worship Encounters, so, if you miss a rehearsal, it does not prevent you from leading the following Sunday. For the same reason, you should attend each weekly rehearsal, even if you will be absent the following Sunday.

Rehearsal reminders...

- To avoid distractions, please be on time and do not leave early unless you have another leadership obligation.
- Avoid walking in front of the director during rehearsal.
- Bring a teachable attitude, always thinking of others first.
- Mark your own attendance in the robing rooms for each rehearsal and Worship Encounter.
- Choir members, please wear your name tag during all rehearsals so that everyone can get to know each other!

WORSHIP ENCOUNTERS

We encourage everyone to express their worship personally. We love for everyone to exalt the King by clapping, lifting holy hands, kneeling, bowing our heads or by looking upwards. People see us before they hear us. We should be sure to match our countenance to the meaning of our song: smile as we sing a joyful song, be reflective as we sing a meditative song. Respect the personal space of those around us as we clap or lift our hands. And, in light of our microphones., clap silently, but energetically while singing. At all times we want to point people to Christ, not draw attention to ourselves.

When transitioning to your seat in the Worship Center, please remember these important tips:

- Step very softly.
- Avoid walking in front of the pulpit.
- Remain quiet when moving through the hallways and Music Suite to retrieve your belongings (all noise bleeds into the Worship Center).
- Move directly to your seat instead of stopping to visit.
- Choose a seat preferably that is not on a front aisle.
- Use the side aisles or outer hallways to go around to the back of the Worship Center to reach your seat.
- Wait until a natural break in the service to finish moving to your seat whenever possible.

MEMORIZATION

We believe that memorizing our music allows us to offer a more precious gift to the Lord and enables us to more effectively lead others into His presence. You can accelerate memorization by being consistent at rehearsals, listening to the CDs that we

provide for you, by logging on to practice.crossgates.org, or by checking out music to review at home. Teleprompters are provided for the choir during our Worship Encounters, but should only be used to aid our memories, not to take the place of memorization. Just be flexible and work toward learning songs as quickly as you can. You have more capacity than you think!

CHOIR & ORCHESTRA ATTIRE GUIDELINES

Our heart is to lead others to worship our great God and to focus on Him alone. Therefore, to eliminate distractions, let's be careful that our attire during worship services is modest and does not draw attention away from Him. Be mindful that some pieces of clothing for everyday life do not always work well when we are elevated in the choir loft or onstage with the entire congregation looking our way and with cameras sharing our worship with the world.

Under these guidelines, strive for a "business or dressy casual" feel for Sunday mornings with modest, up-to-date styles. We have a more casual look for Sunday evenings, but sharp.

Tops...

- Dress shirts, and nice golf shirts are always appropriate. Jackets and ties are always optional for Sunday morning services.
- Please avoid shirts with large logos or wording, except for Crossgates volunteer shirts (i.e. OneHope Café, Kairos).
- Loose fitting is always best. Tight or form-fitting tops should be avoided.
- All tops should have a short or longer sleeve and should be long enough to cover your midriff if you lift your hands.
- Modest necklines (front and back) are essential to conceal cleavage and underwear. For the same reason, please avoid "invisible" or "see-through" fabrics.

Bottoms...

- Full-length slacks and dressy capris (for ladies) are appropriate at any time. Solid colors are preferred.
- We will not wear jeans on Sunday mornings. Jeans and casual pants can be worn in Sunday evening services.
- For ladies, skinny jeans are acceptable, but are best paired with un-tucked, longer tops. Leggings are NOT appropriate as a primary bottom piece. If worn, they should be covered with a skirt or dress that reaches to the top of your kneecap.
- Please avoid athletic wear, pants with holes, shorts, and large logos.
- Proper undergarments should always be worn so that underwear lines are not seen.
- Dresses and skirts are appropriate, but should reach to the top of your kneecap or longer. This is very important in the elevated choir loft.
- Please choose styles that are modest, not tight or form-fitting, and not accentuating any body part. Bottoms should be classy, and up-to-date.

And...

- Dressier shoes are always appropriate. Athletic/training shoes are fine in Sunday evening services.
- Please avoid hats or dark glasses (unless there is a medical reason).
- Do not wear any colognes or scented lotions AT ALL in consideration of our friends with allergies and asthma. No exceptions.
- Be certain that the attire you choose never hinders your ability and freedom to worship or hinders the worship of the congregation we lead. Make absolutely sure that you are covered even when you bend over or lift your hands (no visible cleavage, midriff, etc.).

Additional Attire...

We ask the choir and orchestra to purchase outfits for some special events. All teams have special uniforms at times. We try to keep the cost low, but scholarships are always available. Please let us know if you need financial assistance with attire for special events and do not let that prevent you from participating.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have a special prayer need, our worship family would love the opportunity to be a part of God's answer with you and to include your request in the weekly Praise & Prayer Bookmark. Please complete a prayer card at the Music Suite Desk, or contact us at worship.crossgates.org or 601.824.2737. We are honored to pray with you!

WORSHIP IS A LIFESTYLE!

Above everything, members of our Worship Choir and Orchestra endeavor to have a personal worship and prayer time each day. We are walking out a daily "lifestyle of praise," not just a Sunday or Wednesday event. This means that we must continually guard our hearts so that our public testimony of Christ will shine through all of our spheres of influence: family, friends, co-workers, social media, and community.

YOUR STAFF

David Oliver | Worship Pastor
Alan Cagle | Associate Worship Pastor
Gina Sullivan | KingSingers & School of Worship Arts Director
Lori Schuler | Administrative Assistant
Jonathan Henderson | Worship Associate
Erin Mitchell | Ministry Assistant
Tommy Creel | Orchestra Director & Accompanist
Laura Callahan | Accompanist

OFFICE | 601.824.2737

DAVID OLIVER CELL | 601.941.4771

EMAIL | worship@crossgates.org

WEB | worship.crossgates.org