GFBC ORCHESTRA

Frequently Asked Questions

SENIOR PASTOR'S WELCOME

What a thrill it is to have you involved with our Celebration Orchestra Ministry! I cannot tell you how exciting it is to me and to our entire church to look up and see you making a joyful noise unto the Lord with your instrument!

Can you just imagine what it would be like to try to worship without you using your talent for God? It's amazing how we are ushered into the very presence of God when all of our focus is on Him whether you are singing a song, preaching a sermon or playing an instrument.

Everyone is doing their part for the glory of God! Thank you so much for enabling us to fulfill Psalm 33:3, "*Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.*" We couldn't do it without you! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Pastor Kevin

WORSHIP PASTOR'S WELCOME

As the Worship Pastor of GFBC, I want to thank you for considering being part of the Worship Ministry through our Celebration Orchestra. The Orchestra plays such a vital role in all of our services. From the worship songs we sing, to the choir specials or the occasional instrumental piece, the Orchestra blesses people tremendously. I have served in churches where we depended on either soundtracks or a keyboard, and although I was always thankful for what we had, being here at GFBC with the full Orchestra is absolutely a dream come true!

I would like to add that Howard Everhart does an incredible job with the Orchestra. With his musical abilities, education, experience and a heart for God, you will never have to worry about not being prepared musically or spiritually. Whether you have decided to be a part of the Orchestra or you are praying about it, simply allow God to lead, guide and direct you! Welcome to the GFBC Worship Ministry where our desire is to make Jesus known, to lift Him up and watch Him do what He does best…draw people from all walks of life into a relationship with God, through Jesus.

Blessings,
Roy McNiel

ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Celebration Orchestra of GFBC and I hope and pray that you will find a place to belong in ministry right here with us. We are a "family" of believers that the Lord has entrusted to play musical instruments to bring Him honor and glory and praise. Along with the choir, we have the awesome privilege of leading this church in Praise and Worship to the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. He is the audience of ONE. He is the only reason we do what we do. Along with this privilege comes an exciting responsibility.

Throughout this document, you will find helpful information that should assist you with any questions that you may have. If you have any questions that have not been addressed in this web page, please do not hesitate to ask.

Our ministry includes the Celebration Orchestra that plays for just about every Sunday morning service. In this orchestra we have the following sections: Rhythm, Brass, Woodwinds and Strings. For our Wednesday evening Oasis services we have a smaller group called the Oasis Band, which consists of our Rhythm Section.

Thank you for prayerfully considering being a part of our Worship Ministry!
Howard Everhart

And now the FAQ's

1.) How do I join?

Our first musical requirement is that you be a sophomore in high school with a minimum of four years of playing experience. The reason for this is that the music we play is on an advanced level and requires enough knowledge and ability in all 12 key signatures and a good proficiency in sight-reading. We cover a great deal of music in a very short period.

Next, we invite you to attend a minimum at least three rehearsals as our guest. During these weeks, we ask that you pray and ask the Lord if He is calling you to a ministry through our Orchestra. If you feel that He is, and you would like to become a regular member, we will schedule an informal audition and interview with the director, Howard Everhart. The interview is a "get to know one another" meeting. The audition will cover tone quality, technique, sight-reading and key recognition to determine your part assignment and preparedness for the group.

Because everyone who auditions may not be as prepared as others, we encourage you to seek private lessons on your respective instrument or begin a practice routine that will improve your playing skills. (Psalm 33:3) After a few months you may schedule another audition. Do not give up or get discouraged, just keep pressing on and trying if you truly sense that God is calling you to this ministry!

2.) Attendance?

Faithful attendance is encouraged and expected at all rehearsals, worship services and special events. Every member's attendance goal should be 100 percent. That is what the Lord gives to us and that is what He deserves and expects from us. Other than circumstances such as sickness, death of a family member, family vacations and unavoidable work/school conflicts, you are encouraged to be present for all rehearsals and services. If you are going to be absent, and we realize that you will be at times, please use the Celebration News to inform us of your planned absence. If it is an emergency and you need ministry assistance, call the music office at 205.488.8713 or 205.488.8765.

Please Note - An Orchestra member's responsibility is to be present and punctual for Orchestra rehearsals and for the services in which we play. We ask that you not miss orchestra for involvement in other church activities. The Orchestra, along with the choir, has an awesome responsibility to lead in worship every week. So please do not hinder your ministry and the ministry of others by getting involved in too many different ministries. This means that you must make choices at times. So again, the most important thing is to know that God has called you to our Orchestra Ministry and that it is a priority in your schedule.

We invite ALL Orchestra members to play in all services unless you teach or direct a LifeGroup. The Orchestra is dismissed at the end of the music portion of each worship service to attend a LifeGroup or attend a service with family or friends.

3.) Wednesday Rehearsal?

- Where: Band/Perc. in Worship Center & Orchestra in Room NC102 (North Campus)
- When: 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. (After Oasis)

Rehearsals begin as close to 7:30 p.m. as possible and end at 9:00 p.m. Please allow time in your schedule to be seated as soon as possible for Warm-Up/Tune-Up. Please use the "Orchestra Rehearsal Schedule" to stay informed of what's next. After the rehearsal, please place your folder(s) back in the orchestra folder which will be located backstage.

Here are some basic expectations so that our rehearsals will be as productive as possible:

- Here are some E's for Rehearsals and Services: Effort, Enthusiasm, Energy, Excellence, Exciting, and EXALT!
- Rehearse like you are performing so that you will perform like you rehearse. Present God the best you have! Perform/Praise for HIM, the audience of ONE.
- Come with a positively flexible, can-do attitude! ***Please be regular in attendance and punctual as not to be a distraction.***
- Please practice at home on passages that challenge you. Remember, you practice by yourself and we rehearse together!
- When in rehearsal, please be considerate of others by not talking, or on your phones, or doodling on your instruments while the director is giving instructions. This is very distracting to folks around you and it ultimately is disrespectful to the director.
- Please use your pencils in marking your music so that you will remember instructions from week to week. Our minds may forget, but a note on the paper tends to help us remember.
- Rehearsal Music and Folders: I ask that ***all folders and music stay here at GFBC*** for filing and in the event we need to make changes. If you would like to take music home and practice, please see Howard for a code to our copy machine. Thank you!

Work hard and have fun! Why? Well, why do they call it "playing" our instruments? Enjoy making music with other instrumentalists, praising our Father who is the audience of ONE!

4.) Worship Service Information

- 8:30 a.m. - Run Through/Warm Up with Everyone in Worship Center
- 9:15 a.m. - Worship Service #1
- 10:50 a.m. - Worship Service #2

Sunday's Worship Service music and order of service will be in your folders and on your music stands when you arrive. On the "Order of Service" page you will not only find the order of events, but you will find the "breakdown" of the worship songs. This will inform you of the expected road map for each song, etc… Please do not expect it to be the same every week. Variety is fun and change is good! The only constant thing in the Orchestra is CHANGE! Occasionally, we will play "instrumental only" during the service as scheduled/planned.

Everyone should PLEASE be in place about five minutes before the service in order to be warmed up so that we can begin the next service on time. Following the last service, you participate in please put your music back in the folder and return the folder to the music rack backstage. Please keep the Orchestra area clean and neat by removing cups, used Kleenex and other trash. Thank you!

5

.) Presentation - What do we wear?

We ask all Orchestra members to please follow the predetermined dress code for every service that is Modest and Presentable. Please remember that we are televised and the camera catches everything. Again, remember to be extremely modest as not to distract from Worship. Only thing we ask is that NO solid white shirts/tops be worn.

Men: Ties are NOT required, but optional. Coats are optional.
Ladies: We ask you to please wear pants/slacks, other nice & modest clothing. We are all lead worshipers and should always appear as sharp as possible. Our appearance to a lost person is very much a part of our testimony.

As a matter of course, please double check your order of service after you arrive for any unusual changes or "surprises." Be prepared always for whatever occurs next during the Worship Service. "Positively flexible" is a great philosophy to adopt as we worship together. Please make it a priority to pray and read God's Word daily as to be spiritually prepared to worship the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. He is worthy! Getting a good night of sleep the night before would greatly help. (Just a thought!)

Please play confidently, but always with a thought toward the overall balance and clarity of the message. Remember, be a support under the vocals. When the vocals sing, stay out of the way! When they do not…ENJOY with good musical balance of course!

6.) Playing Responsibilities

We play in all Sunday Morning worship services, occasionally on Wednesday nights, during revival crusades and present one major production per year, "A Gardendale Christmas." The Worship Ministry is invited to sing/play for other churches from time to time and we enjoy sharing and leading when these occasions happen.

7.) Aviom Monitoring System and In-Ear Headphones

Here at GFBC we use an in-ear monitoring system called Aviom. Each Rhythm Section player has their own mixing station with the option of using either headphones or in-ear monitors. The other sections have one mix station per section. One of the section's players has access to the station and can adjust the monitor according to each section's needs as agreed upon in that respective section. Since in-ear monitors sit in the ear canal, we ask each player to purchase their own ear buds. May I recommend that you not purchase a cheap pair but invest in something of good quality (around the $25-$50 range should suffice). I personally like Shure and Sony products (there are many options).

8.) Planning Center Online (PCO)

We use an online worship planning program called Planning Center Online and the web page is www.planningcenteronline.com. After we get your registration information (Name, address, email, etc.), we will set you up with an account so that you may access this program. You will receive a WELCOME TO PLANNING CENTER ONLINE EMAIL that will guide you to set your specific password and update any info you wish, plus add a picture if you desire. Once you update your info, then you will be able to view upcoming Worship orders, listen to selected songs through streaming audio and be able to view and print selected PDF charts/music. If you see a file name with a four digit number (code) at the end, that is the password needed for that song. This will allow you to print music to practice at your convenience. Please take note of the page range for your particular instrument so that you may print only the part you need versus the entire arrangement.

Also, Planning Center allows us to schedule singers and players for special services, as well as, send out mass emails to respective groups within the Worship Ministry. We usually do this to send out pertinent information and prayer requests. Planning Center is a wonderful tool for our Worship Ministry to stay in touch with what's coming up, as well as, your personal preparation for rehearsals and services. If I can be of any assistance to you in this matter please do not hesitate to let me know.

9.) Childcare Policies

General Policies (Birth to 5th Grade)

- Worship Care will open 15 minutes prior to and close immediately following classes and services.
- Childcare will be provided during Worship Services, LifeGroups or Connection Classes.
- Label all items. (Bibles, clothes, bags, pacifiers, bottles, cups, diapers, blankets, etc.)
- FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT REHEARSALS: All children will be located downstairs.
- FOR EXTENDED CARE: All Orchestra members who have preschool aged children must fulfill their responsibilities of a rotating schedule for extended care. If there are ANY conflicts that arise, it is YOUR responsibility to get a substitute and inform the Preschool Ministry of this change in ADVANCE!

10.) Security

- Preschoolers must be taken to their rooms by their parent or an adult guardian. You may obtain security labels by computer check-in or labels provided outside the classroom door. Part of the label is placed on the child while the other part goes with the adult. Only the adult with the security label will be allowed to pick up the child. In the event someone doesn't have the security label and wants to pick up a child, they must get permission from a Preschool Director.
- FOR ALL WORSHIP MINISTRY PARTICIPANTS: Please write on your child's security label where you can be located during our rehearsals and services!

Health - For the protection of your child and others, children may not be brought to the preschool when any of the following exist:

- Fever, vomiting, diarrhea in the past 24 hours.
- Any contagious virus, infection or rash.
- Thick, colored mucous from eyes or nose.

- Children need to be free from any of the above for 24 hours before returning to the Preschool area.
- Please notify the Preschool Ministry office in the event of head lice or an infectious disease if your child has been present in a Preschool classroom.

11.) Church Owned Equipment

It is the policy of GFBC that any church-owned equipment is for church use only and is not to be used for any other purposes unless the Orchestra Director has granted permission.

AGAIN, welcome!