

Music Policy – Gymea Peoples Church

Principles

1. Music is a powerful emotional trigger and specific musical styles can produce specific emotional responses within the audience.
2. Music within the church service is meant to facilitate the congregation's experience of worship. It is not meant to entertain the congregation in place of worship.
3. Consistent with our understanding of worship, the music ministry should be Christ focused and Word based. It should enhance our sense of the spiritual, not stimulate our interest in the physical or merely emotional.
4. No musical instrument is inherently good or evil, however certain instruments are so closely associated with particular cultural or lifestyle traditions that their use in the church service inhibits the experience of worship for some people.
5. Our choice of music should be in consideration of the preferences and sensibilities of all the congregation. (Romans 12:10)

On the basis of these principles we recommend:

- a. That all people involved in the music ministry have a clear testimony of salvation.
- b. That musicians within the congregation should be given opportunity to exercise their gifts and develop them with a spirit of excellence for the benefit of the whole body.
- c. That the musicians should operate under the direction of the appointed music leader for each service.
- d. That musicians should, as far as possible, perform as part of the congregation rather than as a focal point for the congregation.
- e. Within our present chapel, amplification of musical instruments should be reserved for accompanying ministry items which require such amplification to be adequately heard.
- f. Music associated with the Lord's Table should be appropriate to the purpose of that ordinance i.e. during distribution of the elements it should be muted and meditative, and accompanying the singing leading into and concluding the service it should reflect the song chosen.
- g. For a short period (about five minutes) before the church service begins, and for a moment after the service finishes, music that encourages the congregation towards contemplation and meditation should be played.
- h. Ideally, it would be preferable to have a Music Director appointed to develop and coordinate the music program. He/she would be responsible to the Church via the Leadership, and operate under the above principles.