

Tips for Helping Your Community Find their Voice

Spirituality of Music

Examine why your community values music; what are the key ingredients that enhance the story for your community? How do you add to solemnity and ritual with music? How does music fit into Christian formation in your community?

Benefits of Active Participation (worshipping as ensemble, in ensemble)

- Binds us together physically, emotionally, and in formation.
- No choice but to focus on the present.
- Spiritual growth through connection to each other.
- What kind of self-expressions are encouraged by your community? What does your community deem to be 'appropriate'?

Strategies to increase participation

Be a joiner

- Invite people into the liturgy
- Gain buy-in from leaders (including the choir)
- *Strategically plant strong singers/choir throughout the worship space
- **Create alternatives for those with mobility/vocalization issues

Right Repertoire – Wrong Approach

- TEACH! Start anywhere; before, or during service. (new or ancient repertoire alike)
- ***Heads Up Experience; engage the senses; hymnals can be barriers.
- Use the right person and the right instrument for the job (stop using organ for everything)
- Change your spatial orientation to allow for a more conducive singing environment

Willing Spirit – Sad Music

- Strophic music vs. Congregational song; both are integral! Explore your hymnals.
- Introduce new music and practices slowly.
- Juxtapose expectations (is the format the same every Sunday?)
- Explore the use of secular music.

First Principles

- Search for music that is scalable (grow with it)
- Search for music that includes the whole community
- Invite others into musical leadership (our best leaders are not those who love Music, but those who love People)

**The best single change you can make to affect participation*

***Body percussion, bells, boomwhackers, tambourine*

****The 2nd best single change you can make to affect participation*

Submitted by Dan Norman, Music Director at Church of the Redeemer

