

**ORGANIZING AND GROWING AN ADULT CHOIR**

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The music program of a church is one of the first things that a visitor will notice once entering your church. For many churches, one of the first things that will take place once the service begins is a “choir opener.” First impressions are lasting impressions.

The choir is an excellent opportunity to get people involved.

The choir is often a great place for entry-level singers.

Set a minimum age for entrance into your choir.

Allow anyone to visit a choir practice at any time.

Have a weekly time scheduled for rehearsals.

Be prepared for the rehearsal.

* Know what you are planning to do during the rehearsal
* Have music in the seats ready for the choir members prior to rehearsal
* Let your musicians know prior to the rehearsal what to be prepared for

Know what your choir member’s favorite songs are but have a wide variety of song types.

Treat your choir like a Sunday School class.

Choir practice should be a fruitful but fun time

* Start on time – even if everyone is not there
* Don’t spend too much time chit-chatting, but an occasional short story or joke is not harmful
* Allow time for the choir members to ask questions about parts, timing, or dynamics

Stress communication

* From them to you
* From you to them
* Don’t expect them to see the importance of communicating with you if you are not doing the same for them

Follow up on absentees

* Those who did not communicate with you
* Those who did communicate with you

Take attendance

* If you are short on time, have someone else do it for you during practice
* Recognize those who have perfect attendance for the quarter or for the year
	+ Performances
	+ Rehearsals
	+ Both

While we should expect our choir members to let us know if they are not going to be there for a service, it is not harmful to check on them Saturday evening.

* Text reminding them of the song titles, any important details, and asking for a reply ONLY if they are not going to make it Sunday morning
* This helps you as choir director be better prepared

Send out weekly updates or tips

* Create an email list
* Create a Facebook group
* Send out weekly updates (conference news, etc.)
* Send out choir tips (singing, posture, etc.)
* Send out prayer requests
1. Make your choir the “best and biggest” group that you have.
	1. Your choir is the biggest tool you have for expanding your special music program.

* 1. It’s what most people see as your “music department.”
	2. Good choirs encourage others to be involved in your music department.
1. Encourage as many people as possible that are in your music program to be a part of the choir.
2. Draw from your choir for singing groups.