



soma
COMMUNITY

worship team handbook

“Toward God and For God”

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Introduction: Corporate Worship at Soma

The goal of our corporate worship at Soma can be summed up in the phrase “toward God and for God.” Corporate worship at Soma is expressed with the end in mind to move us toward a deeper walk with God and the understanding that our worship is for God. It is our hope to be able to communicate the biblical truth that corporate worship exists to bless God for who He is and all that He has done.

Soma Community Church values creativity and artistic expression as a means to glorify God. We believe we are creative and artistic because God has made us in His image. Every person created by God has the ability to be imaginative, creative and artistic. God intends all artistic expressions for His worship, to reveal the truth of His word and to communicate redemption through Christ.

Soma highlights a few expressions of art in our corporate worship that we believe the broad majority of people can bring enjoyment to God through. The means of corporate worship we at Soma will focus on (but not limit ourselves to) are music, singing, poetry, art, video and teaching.

It is our belief at Soma that worshiping God means moving toward God, moving each other closer to God and moving our city, nation and the world toward God. The fruit of worship is an enhanced desire to lead others to Christ. It is our desire that corporate worship at Soma would lead us to missions in our city, nation and around the world.

Praise God for your interest in using the arts for worship! We have the most exciting responsibility in the church.

Sincerely,

Ted Rastatter

Soma Worship Leader

Worship Team Policy and Procedures:

Our worship team consists of more than just musicians. Poets, videographers, photographers, graphic designers, painters, sound engineers are all welcomed and desired to be apart of our team.

Auditions: Every person aspiring to be a part of the musical aspect of our worship team must audition. Auditions will be held once a year the second Sunday of October. We believe in creativity as well as excellence. We are looking for musicians who are serious about their craft and desire to be the best they can. When there is a musical calling on someone's life there is most likely the ability to support the call so we are looking for people who are gifted in this area.

If you have missed the tryout you can always record yourself playing and singing and give the tape, cd or mp3 to the worship leader.

Follow Through: It is not our desire to burn you out so it is our goal for each worship team member to be two weeks on and two weeks off. If you cannot attend a practice or a service, adequate notice of no less than one week is required. We are asking musicians to commit to one year rotations. Worship team schedules are made two months in advance.

Practice: The nature of church planting is that we will not always have a set schedule of when we can practice. Practices will most likely fall on a week night as well as sound check one hour before services.

Worship Lists: We do the songs we do at Soma because our people can identify with them. Christian radio doesn't dictate our worship lists.

Integrity: Every worship team member must take this role seriously. People will view you as a leader because you are on stage. Soma has chosen 2 Peter 1:5-11 as our guide in what it looks like to become a mature believer in Christ. It is Jesus' desire that we bear "much fruit" (John 15:5). Moral excellence is extremely important for the believers testimony to unbelievers. If our lives are not changed and reflect the new life in Christ, the gospel loses it's power for those who are watching us.

With that said, God has given us much grace. We are always in need of God's grace and we as the body of Soma need to be grace givers. We will

always be growing in our holiness but nonetheless, *“because it is written, You shall be Holy, for I am Holy.”* - 1 Peter 1:16 We will strive for Godly living as a service to those around us who don't know the love of Christ.

Covenant: Being a member of the Soma worship team means you will sign a yearly covenant. You can find the covenant letter attached to this handbook. At the end of the year you are free to sign the commitment again or not.

Expectations: These are a few non-negotiating items we have for our worship team members.

- every worship team member needs to be committed to a home church. If you are not currently in a home church we can help you find one.
- every worship team member needs to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and live a life that seeks to honor Him.
- **don't be a diva:** Jesus came to serve, so should we. It's cool to be a musician and people will look at us because we are on stage but they will not be fans of you if they see you as a bigger fan of yourself. In essence, we don't have anything worth boasting in except for our Lord!

Guest Musicians: As Soma, we want to foster creativity and artistic expression. Artists/musicians can make guest appearances during our worship services. Guest musicians do not necessarily need to be believers. This is a good opportunity for our community to share God's love. Guest musicians will not however be in a lead worshipper position and will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Gear You Need:

Quality Instruments and Amps: If you are a musician, it is important to us that you have good gear. It's important that your instrument(s) are able to remain in tune and your electronics would be of a higher caliber in order to keep us from distracting those focused on Christ. We understand instruments get expensive but we find if you are really invested in your craft you value quality.

Drummers: all drummers need to be comfortable playing with in ear monitors as well as playing with and operating a click track. Drummers will also be asked to learn the basics of Reason 4.0 software. Drummers will need to bring their own set and sticks.

Guitarists: all guitarists will need to own their own foot switch tuner that will allow them to tune quickly without distraction. Guitarists will also need to bring their own 1/4" cables, amps and pedal boards.

Acoustic Guitarists: will specifically be required to have your own preamp.

String Players: will need to have their own 1/4" cables as well as a stage tuner, dl box, and any FX (reverb, delay) you require.

Keyboards: will need to have their own 1/4" cable as well as their own monitor. If you are using a laptop to run through, a firewire interface would be helpful as well as in-ear monitors.

Every worship team member must have a working email account that they check regularly. Worship lists will be sent via email.