

SUGGESTIONS AND TIPS FOR SONG LEADING

- **Coordination with the service leader/minister:**

Understand the time allowed for congregational singing. Your pastor can help determine this.

Know the type of service: Devotional, Evangelistic, Praise and Worship, etc.

Consider a theme for the song service. Check with your pastor ahead of time.

- **Hymns/Choruses:**

Know which ones to use when, and why.

Hymns are great for instilling doctrinal points. Choruses are very useful for reinforcing those points and for praise and worship. There should be a good balance.

- **Announcement of Song:**

Call song number clearly. You may repeat it to allow the orchestra time to prepare.

If not all the verses are to be sung, make it clear which ones you are calling.

If a comment is made in regards to the song, it should be brief.

- **Introduction of Music:**

Purpose of an introduction: If an Orchestra/Ensemble is accompanying a song service, it helps to play one or two lines so the congregation has more time to find the song and also familiarize them with the song.

Piano/Organ usually only gives a chord. However, there is nothing wrong with playing an introduction as well.

Playing the end of the song works well for an introduction.

- **Tempo:**

Consider how fast or slow a particular song should be sung. What is the style?

Think about the words. The tempo should not be faster than one can reasonably sing the words.

- **Beat Patterns:**

Most frequently used: 2, 3 and 4. Occasionally a song requires 6.

- **Potential Pitfalls:**

Written fermatas

Traditional holds

Mixed meter

Repeats

Starting next verse

Multiple endings