

# **Music Chair**

## **Boot Camp**

**A goal-oriented approach  
to improve music at the  
stake and ward levels**

## Overarching Principles of the Job(s)

I. Key purpose of the Stake Music Chair: Serve as a resource to stake presidency members on music matters, and to serve as a resource to ward/branch music chair persons.

II. Key purpose of the Ward Music Chair: Serve as a resource to the bishopric, and to serve as a resource to those holding music callings within the ward.

III. Primary goals of the Stake Music Chair:

- a. Interface directly with Ward Music Chair persons & bishoprics to determine needs/challenges in each ward. Attend ward conferences when necessary. Go through Ward Music Chair to suggest skills training when appropriate.
- b. Work with each ward music chair to establish a solid foundation of sacrament meeting music in individual wards, ensuring proper tools and support are being provided by each bishopric.
- c. Facilitate regular stake-wide trainings in music, at least once per year, especially in the areas of conducting/choir directing, and organ.

IV. Primary goals of the Ward Music Chair:

- a. Supervise ward music staff in their responsibilities.
- b. Recommend ward members to fill music callings.
- c. Identify areas of necessary training, and if unable to create training opportunities, seek the help of the Stake Music Chair
- d. Create (or supervise the creation of) meaningful programs for special occasions, such as Christmas & Easter

*Primary goal of both Stake and Ward Music Chair persons:*  
Educate other stake/ward counterparts on the importance of music  
in all levels of the church. How?

1. Proactive communication
2. Meaningful planning
3. Use available people and resources well

# **THE STAKE MUSIC CHAIR PERSON**

*Specific ways to succeed*

## **1. Stake Conference**

- Think of it like general conference; plan for all sessions
- Plan at least 6 months ahead
- Present a well thought out plan to leadership for approval
- Involve as many members as possible in the plan
- Set a high standard for excellence; get the right people for the job
- Keep in mind overarching principles of music in large conference settings

## **2. Stake functions (temple trips, firesides, etc)**

- Keep an eye on the calendar; know what events are coming up
- Offer assistance to the appropriate leadership
- Follow up by delivering excellence

## **3. Work with ward music chair persons to reinforce excellence**

- Visit at ward conference time at least for sacrament meeting, meet with WMC afterward
  - Ask about specific needs within the ward, areas of weakness, needed resources and/or training
  - Reinforce the need for the ward music chairpersons to function as a team to succeed
  - Follow up on requests for training/resource assistance; serve as a liaison to the stake as needed
- Consider placing each WMC on the stake music committee by default; instant committee, and access to resources within the wards
- Foster communication among WMCs through setting up an Internet-based discussion place

## **THE WARD MUSIC CHAIR PERSON**

*Specific ways to succeed*

### **1. Sacrament Meeting is the centerpiece of the three-hour block**

- Ensure sacrament meeting music is always relevant and thoughtfully prepared (see following page)
- Work closely with music director and organist to set standards for music involvement
- Maintain a special music calendar as far as one year out
  - Block out Fast Sundays, general/stake/ward conferences first
  - Work with choir director to schedule as many choir Sundays as possible
  - Ask primary to sing once or twice during the year before the annual program
  - Assign YM to sing one or two Sundays per year, and YW, and perhaps combined
  - Fill in the remaining Sundays with special music as available within the ward

### **2. Other auxiliaries need support as well**

- Ensure that RS “Music Spotlight” is occurring
- Reinforce responsible music leadership in Priesthood opening exercises
- Offer assistance to primary music team as needed; make training connections when necessary
- Support ward activities when music is included
- Train (or have someone train) YM and YW in basic music leading in conjunction with program reqs
- Strive to fill lesser-known music callings, especially when the support will help ailing programs
- Work with bishopric to keep callings filled with people up for the task. Temper learning with quality.

### **3. Create meaningful programs for Easter, Christmas, Pioneer Day, etc.**

- Prayerfully consider available ward resources
- Find ways to involve ward choir, primary, other groups
- Present ideas to bishopric well in advance, for approval
- Delegation of program content is fine, but WMC should provide oversight and interface with bishopric

