

Tips for Great Song Leading and Part Singing

Planning and Spirituality

- Plan ahead! Pick the songs a week or more in advance if possible.
- Start with a great quiet time the morning of the service! Be spiritually prepared.
- Have a spiritual, submissive attitude toward the ministry leader even if he is not a musician or singer.
- Don't look to glorify yourself –look to glorify God!
- Choose the right song for the right slot in a service or event.
- Consider your audience. Don't pick a song they barely know at the wrong time.
- Don't be too opinionated about any songs. One person's favorite song is the one the next person hates the most.
- Put variety into the service. Different people like different types of songs.

During the Song

- Start on the right pitch! Use a pitch pipe unless you've got perfect pitch.
- The song leader should lead singing the melody line (typically the soprano part). Do not start singing a harmony part; you will lose the audience!
- If the song totally bombs, don't be afraid to start over or quit after one or two verses and lead a different song; however, try to avoid this happening.
- Don't pick show-off songs if you're inexperienced. Start simple.
- Be sure to be looking up at the people at key points in the song (start of the song, start of every verse, end of the song, etc.).
- Smile! Connect with the people.
- Confidently start and finish the song with a clear cut off.
- Most important: think about the words you are singing and message you are conveying!

Self-Improvement

- Be well-rounded in songs you can lead or sing. Not just the “clappers” or “book songs.”
- Feedback, feedback, feedback! --Don't be afraid of input. Ask the minister. Videotape yourself.
- If you are a part singer, stick to your part when you are in the audience.
- If you are a part singer, practice harmonies with songs on the radio.
- Get someone who reads music to go over the part with you. Use a voice recorder or your answering machine.
- Practice in the mirror or on the freeway (but watch the road!).
- Sing songs every day in your quiet times.
- Make sure you have your own songbook.