

First Baptist Church Keller



Student Music Ministry Handbook 2008-2009

Information Guide for Parents and Students

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First Baptist Church Keller Mission Statement

First Baptist Church of Keller is a community of believers who share a rich heritage of faith and an exciting vision for the future. FBC Keller exists:

- To exalt the Savior!
- To equip the Saints!
- To encourage the Believers!
- To evangelize the Lost!

Student Music Ministry Philosophy

The Student Music Ministry of First Baptist Church Keller exists to:

- Sing and play for the glory of God, in worship services and in all we do;
- Sing and play music that teaches and reinforces the truth of Scripture;
- Encourage middle and high school students to become active participants in the church family;
- Provide an outlet for the extraordinary musical talent of students in our community;
- Develop programs for outreach and Christian witness;
- Provide opportunities where adult sponsors and students can develop lifelong friendships and spiritual accountability;
- Provide additional opportunities for student fellowship.

Student Music Ministry Mission Statement

The Student Music Ministry is a community of students and adults who seek to glorify God through music, to be transformed by the Word of God, and to share the Good News of Christ with those who do not know Him.

Contact Information

Please feel free to contact David Toledo, Associate Minister of Music, at any time regarding questions about the Student Music Ministry.

- Work: (817) 431-2545
- Mobile: (817) 455-5668
- Email: dtoledo@fbckeller.org

The most detailed and up-to-date information concerning the Student Music Ministry can be found online at www.fbckellerstudentmusic.org.

Ensembles

There are seven primary ensembles within the Student Music Ministry that share regularly in our morning and evening worship services, as well as special events throughout the year.

Chapel Choir

The Chapel Choir is a choral ensemble for students, grades 9-12. Chapel Choir meets on Sundays in the Choir Suite from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. **David Toledo** (*dtoledo@fbckeller.org*) serves as director.

PraiSingers

The PraiSingers are made up of students, grades 7 & 8. The PraiSingers meet Sundays in Room 222 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. The PraiSingers are under the direction of **Stacy Porter** (*stacy@ezusa.net*).

Chapel Ensemble

The Chapel Ensemble is an auditioned vocal ensemble made up of members from the Chapel Choir. Auditions for this group occur at the beginning of the Fall Semester each ministry year. The Chapel Ensemble meets on Sundays in the Choir Suite from 5:00 – 5:20 p.m. **John Parker** (*jparker@fbckeller.org*) directs the ensemble and conducts auditions.

Chapel Bells

The Chapel Bells are a handbell ensemble for high school students. The Chapel Bells meet on Sundays in Room 217 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. The Chapel Bells are under the direction of **Lindsey Toledo** (*lindseymtoledo@verizon.net*).

PraisRingers

The PraisRingers are our middle school handbell ensemble and meet on Wednesdays in Room 217 from 5:30 – 6:15 p.m. **Mark Arnold** (*marnold@lscm.net*) serves as the director of the PraisRingers.

180 Worship Band

The 180 Worship Band is the primary worship leadership team for the 180 worship services on Wednesday evening. This ensemble rehearses on Sundays in the S.I. Room from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. and leads worship weekly on Wednesdays at 6:15 – 8:00 p.m. Membership is by audition only and the 180 Band is under the direction of **Mark Arnold**.

FBC Keller Student Orchestra

The FBC Keller Student Orchestra is open to students, grades 7-12, and rehearses seasonally. Students interested in playing their instruments in worship should contact the director, **Mark Arnold**, for more information

Activities

Typically all of our Student Music Ministry activities will take place during normal rehearsal times or worship services. Occasionally a special ministry function will be planned. These activities allow the students to have fun in a group without being in a rehearsal setting. These activities are not required, but all of the students are encouraged to attend. All of these events will be scheduled at the beginning of the semester and their dates posted as soon as possible.

Interviews/Auditions

All high school students will be required to schedule a brief interview with their director during the fall semester. This will allow the directors to properly place them within the ensemble and get to know the student. There will be a schedule posted at the beginning of the semester.

Auditions will be held for the following:

- Solos
- Chapel Ensemble
- 180 Worship Band
- Small Ensembles

These audition dates will be posted far in advance and students will be notified if any changes occur. Anyone who cannot audition on the scheduled date must contact the director before the audition date.

Priority for solos or any other auditioned parts will be given to those students who attendance records and attitude demonstrate faithfulness and commitment to the Student Music Ministry.

Music and Folders

- The music and folders are the property of First Baptist Church Keller.
- Please do not write in your folders or music excessively.
- The music and/or folders should not be taken from the choir room without permission.

Parent Support Group

Parents will be needed to assist on the following service teams:

- Food
 - For rehearsals, Sunday mornings when choirs sing, retreats, special events, etc.
- Rehearsal
 - Be present to help at rehearsals
 - The individuals in service team will attend rehearsals on a rotating basis
 - Keep up with attendance records
 - Follow list of rehearsal duties
- Prayer/Outreach
 - Help minister to specific needs in the choirs, pray for the students, encourage and support the students
 - Help coordinate prayer event prior to summer tours
 - Organization devotions for rehearsals/tour books (work with the ensemble directors)
 - Make calls/send notes to those who are absent, sick, or who have specific prayer needs
- Media/Publicity
 - Take pictures in rehearsals and events
 - Bulletin board design
 - Help publicize concerts/events in the community and on tour

These service teams are optional and are designed for those who have a desire to impact the lives of students. Each team will have a team leader who will stay in contact with the directors on a regular basis. The most important thing any parent can do is be supportive, positive, and encouraging.

First Baptist Church Fine Arts Academy

Any student with a desire to pursue private music instruction is encouraged to participate in the FBC Keller Fine Arts Academy. The FAA provides private lessons in piano, organ, voice, guitar, flute, violin, French horn, and others. The lessons are offered on a weekly basis in 30 or 45 minute blocks. Private lessons help the student discover and develop his/her abilities as a musician in an individual setting, rather than a group rehearsal. For more information concerning the Fine Arts Academy please contact the Worship and Creative Arts department office.

Performance Information

All performances will be scheduled well in advance and notice will be given at the beginning of each semester. When an ensemble participates in our morning worship services, the students are required to sing/play in all three services. If a student will be unable to participate in a performance, the director must be given at least one week notice.

Outfits and Performance Attire

Our Student Music Ensembles regularly lead in morning and evening worship services on Sundays. The following attire is appropriate for these occasions.

As a general rule, no shorts, jeans, t-shirts, short skirts, or flip-flops will be worn in performance.

Guys: All guys will need to have a pair of black dress pants, black socks and shoes, and a black belt.

Girls: Girls should wear appropriate outfits that will not distract from the message being declared. No low-cut or spaghetti strap tops. When swimming, only one piece swimsuits are allowed.

Each of our tours will have their own specific outfit requirements and students will be expected to procure the necessary outfits.

Lifestyle Expectations

1 Peter 2:9 tells us that we are a *“chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”*

In keeping with this passage as a representative of the Lord Jesus Christ, First Baptist Church Keller, and the Student Music Ministry, each student is expected to:

1. Have a growing, vibrant relationship with God through regular prayer and Bible study
2. Live a godly life, conducting oneself in a Christ-like manner at all times
3. Show respect for adult leaders and fellow students
4. Regularly attend Sunday School and worship services throughout the choir year

Attendance Guidelines

We believe that every ensemble member is a vital part of the Body of Christ and should actively use their individual gifts and talents for the good of the church. In order for our ensembles to prepare to lead and minister in worship, all students are expected to attend rehearsals unless there is an extenuating circumstance.

- Rehearsal schedules will be given out at the beginning of each semester to allow families to plan schedules accordingly.
- A written note, phone call, or email informing the director of any upcoming or previous absence is highly encouraged, though not required. This communication allows the director to know what is going on in the lives of the students outside of the Student Music Ministry.
- Recognizing that many students come from different family backgrounds and must visit their parents separately, certain absences may be unavoidable. If this applies to you, please let your director know at the beginning of the semester.
- Any student who is new to the church and desires to be a part of non-auditioned ensemble may join at any time.
- **The above attendance policies are important because they ensure that each person is committed to preparing themselves for ministry with the ensembles.**

Middle School and High School Tours

Why Do We Go On Tour?

Each year our middle school and high school ensembles tour throughout the United States. These tours provide tremendous opportunities for our students to grow spiritually, musically, and relationally with each other. By leading in worship, serving at mission projects, spending time together in recreation and relaxation, and traveling together, our students develop a better understanding of the Body of Christ and how each member fits within it.

Every year we seek to provide a different tour experience for our students. During a six year period within the Student Music Ministry, a student should have the opportunity to sing in beautiful sanctuaries and cathedrals throughout the United States, to minister to those less fortunate in major cities, to share their faith in evangelistic outreaches, and create lifelong memories of fellowship with fellow believers in Christ.

Prerequisites

In order to go on the Middle School or High School Tours, a student must:

- Be a member of PraiSingers or Chapel Choir. All students in the various instrumental ensembles are expected to participate in the vocal ensembles. Exceptions to this rule are at the discretion of the directors.
- Attend **75%** of the scheduled rehearsals in the Spring Semester of the school year.
- Must participate in the Home Concert scheduled before or after the tours.
- Participants do not have to be members of FBC Keller.

Payment and Financial Information

Each year we seek to be the best possible stewards of God's resources and limit the cost of our tours. In normal years the costs of the Middle School Tour will be approximately \$150 and the High School Tour approximately \$250. In years in which airfare is required, the cost will be adjusted accordingly.

FBC Keller helps to offset a large portion of the cost of these trips each year for the students. Tour payment schedules are posted early in the fall semester and are expected to be followed closely. We will always work with a family regarding payments, but it is the student's responsibility to contact his or her director.

Refunds

A refund of the total cost of the trip less the initial deposit can be made up to 45 days of a scheduled tour. Because of the financial commitment of transportation, lodging, and meal expenses, no refunds can be issued after that date.

Scholarships

Financial assistance is available for those who might need it. In order to apply for a scholarship, please complete the Scholarship Application and return it to the Worship and Creative Arts Office. **Even if you are planning on applying for a scholarship, you must be pay the initial deposit to go on tour.** If you have any questions, please contact your director.

Tour Sponsors

Each year we need adults who will serve as sponsors for our tours. In order to serve as a Tour Sponsor, you must be an active member of FBC Keller and our Parent Support Group throughout the calendar year. There is an application process and the final decision concerning tour sponsors will be made by the Student Music Ministry team.

Paperwork

Students who plan to go on tour are required to provide the following documents:

- Tour Registration Form
- Completed FBC Keller Medical Release Form
- Completed FBC Keller Medical Info Sheet
- Photocopy of Insurance Card

These forms can be found online at www.fbckellerstudentmusic.org/important-forms.