

HCC WORSHIP — Ideal Qualities & Best Practices

Drums

Overview

The drummer provides the rhythmic foundation and energy for the worship team. They lock in with the bass to create a solid groove, drive dynamics, and guide transitions throughout each song. A HCC drummer leads the dynamics of a song, following song leader cues and leading the rest of the band in feel.

Sound Quality

Tone Expectations: The drum kit is provided with preloaded sounds and tones, however the way a drummer hits the drums can affect tone. Using appropriate force to achieve the desired tone is expected to enhance a song and reinforce dynamics.

Gear & Settings: We provide a six piece E. kit, an Alesis Strike Pro SE. We also provide a Roland SPDx Pad loaded with percussive sounds and fx.

Volume & Dynamics: Adjust dynamics to fit each section of the song. Control intensity to match congregational engagement; build energy without overshadowing vocals or instruments. Use low-end elements of the drum kit to build dynamics and add intensity when needed. The drums control the dynamics of the band and lead more than any other instrument. Follow the song leaders cues to adjust the feel of a song.

Playing Style

Musical Approach: Follow the song's parts as closely as possible and make changes to adapt to the band.. Use fills sparingly and tastefully to highlight transitions, not to dominate the song. Incorporate dynamics (soft verses, strong choruses) to support the worship flow. Simpler is usually better for worship music, but play what serves the song and the band. Plan your builds according to song structure and stitch song sections together smoothly.

Consistency: Play parts reliably from rehearsal to service. Maintain steady timing across rehearsals, soundchecks, and live worship. Avoid unnecessary variations that disrupt the groove or band cohesion. Since drums lead, any change from rehearsal affects everyone.

Adaptability: Adjust to spontaneous song extensions, down sections, or transitions. Be ready to modify beats for different band layouts while staying locked with the band. An electric guitar will change the feel of a song dramatically, so be ready to adapt.

Team Behaviors

Preparation: Drummers are expected to show up to rehearsal with all of their gear they plan to use on Sunday. Since we provide the actual drums, this usually consists of just drum sticks. They should know their parts well and be aware of what is needed for their role that week. Know the songs and arrangements, including transitions and dynamic changes.

Rehearsals: Pay attention to cues from the worship leader and band. Avoid excessive playing between songs. Communicate clearly about any adjustments to the beat, fills, or dynamics

Watching tutorials, and/or using Worship Online to dial in tones and parts is highly recommended.