

HCC WORSHIP — Ideal Qualities & Best Practices

Bass Guitar

Overview

The bass player anchors the band's sound, locking in with the drums to create a solid rhythmic and harmonic foundation. They add depth and energy while serving the song rather than standing out. Bass fills and is responsible for the low end of our band's sound, and makes the band feel full and sound complete.

Sound Quality

Tone Expectations: Warm, full, and clear; avoids muddiness while blending with the band. If possible, overdrive/microsynth/comp. pedals are encouraged to add saturated low end and grit to higher energy moments. NO Reverb please!

Gear & Settings: Direct-in is perfectly fine, even preferred for beginners. Any pedals/effects must stay consistent from week to week barring any major improvements to sound quality.

Volume & Dynamics: Supports the song dynamically, following the drummer and worship leader cues. Low end adds energy, so skillful and intentional choices of when to play effect the band's sound significantly. Any overdrive should be added in stages dynamically with the band.

Playing Style

Musical Approach: Hitting the root notes and slash chords as directed on our chord charts is ideal, as that provides the harmonic context for the rest of the band. Rhythm should follow the drums, the kick in particular. Playing in different octaves adds musical variety and is encouraged when and more subtle sound is required. Fills are only recommended if done in good taste and scarcity, and fills should always land on the root note of the chord being played.

Consistency: The notes that bass players handle dictate the musical context for every other musician on stage and the rhythm they play affects the groove of the entire song. Playing the same parts between rehearsal, sound check, and service is crucial to ensure that we stay locked in together during worship.

Adaptability: Chords can get changed during rehearsals. This affects bass players more than any other musician. Being able to adapt to changing chords and rhythms is a key skill for bass players.

Team Behaviors

Preparation: Bass players are expected to show up to rehearsal with all of their gear they plan to use on Sunday. They should know their parts well and be aware of what settings are needed for their role that week (i.e overdrive stacking, eq settings, ect.).

Rehearsals: Bass players should pay attention to song structures and make notes when changes are made. Playing between songs is discouraged and fills the stage with unnecessary noise.

Example Songs

These songs below reflect the way we would like bass to sound in our team.

This Is Our God - Phil Wickham

Take You At Your Word - Cody Carnes

The Blood (Live) - Bethel Music

No One Like The Lord - Bethel Music

Literally any modern Bethel song