



# Project #6

## DEVELOP A PREPARATION PLAN FOR THE CHOIR

**OBJECTIVE:** To prepare the choir to lead transformational worship with excellence, ensuring they are well-rehearsed, spiritually connected to the music, and unified as a worship-leading team.

**Read pages 184-193 in *The Worship Ministry Guidebook*.**

**Background:** To plan a choir rehearsal effectively, as described in the book, you would follow a structured approach that emphasizes long-term preparation, resource creation, detailed planning, strategic communication, and ongoing spiritual development. This project will guide you through the necessary steps. By following these steps, you can create a comprehensive and insightful project plan for preparing a choir rehearsal that goes beyond just learning notes, focusing on spiritual growth and impactful worship leadership.

### Phase 1: Long-Term Song Scheduling & Selection

- » This phase focuses on proactively planning the choir’s musical repertoire well in advance.
- » **Consult Sermon Topics and Special Emphases:** If available, obtain the next **eight to 12 weeks of sermon topics** to select appropriate choir songs. Also, consider any special emphases or inclusions for the worship services. If sermon information isn’t available, still plan several weeks in advance to ensure songs are well-prepared.
- » **Select Presentational Songs:** Choose songs that the choir will sing alone, often referred to as “special music” or “presentational/representational songs.”
- » **Balance Known and New Music:** Include some already known songs, but also introduce a steady diet of new music to keep the choir engaged.
- » **Stretch the Choir:** Seek to challenge the choir with new styles and musical complexities to keep rehearsals fresh and exciting.
- » **Revisit Familiar Songs:** Re-introduce songs in which the choir and congregation are familiar, to achieve a higher level of musicianship and memorization.
- » **Calendar Selected Songs:** Utilize a spreadsheet to calendar the selected presentational songs for each worship service, planning for the next eight or more weeks.
- » Have a copy of the calendar available for your project submission.

### Phase 2: Resource Creation for Learning

This phase involves preparing essential learning tools for the choir members outside of physical rehearsals.

- » Create Practice Tracks (optional):
  - **Purpose:** Provide rehearsal tracks for choir members to use on their own time (e.g., while driving, working, playing).
  - **Distribution:** Describe how you will get the tracks into the hands of the choir members.
  - **Copyright:** Ensure all distributed materials have proper copyright licensing.
- » **Set Up a Worship Leader Website or Webpage (Optional):** Create a password-protected website specifically for worship leaders. This site can host:
  - Relevant information and upcoming song YouTube videos.

- Practice tracks.
- The upcoming anthem schedule and articles of interest.
- This central hub for communication and resources is invaluable in taking the group to another level as worship leaders.

### Phase 3: Detailed Rehearsal Planning & Structure

This phase outlines the specific content and flow of each choir rehearsal. **You should plan out at least two successive rehearsals for this project.**

- » **Determine the songs you will rehearse:** Plan to begin working on a song **six to eight weeks** before the week it will be sung. The goal is for the song to be learned entirely and ready to go by the final rehearsal before its presentation. Some difficult songs may require more than eight weeks.
  - **Benefit:** This approach makes every choir rehearsal important and ensures members who might miss a final rehearsal still have ample exposure to the music.
- » **Structure Each Rehearsal:**
  - **Begin with Worship:** Start the rehearsal with a time of worship using the congregational songs for the upcoming week (use the songs from the worship plan that you produced in the previous project), as well as introduce new congregational songs a week or two earlier than you will introduce them to the congregation. This helps the choir prepare to lead the congregation in worship and reinforces their role as a worship-leading team.
  - **Review the Current Week's Song:** After the congregational songs, have the choir sing through the presentational song scheduled for the upcoming week. If previous long-term rehearsals were effective, only a few spots should need tweaking.
  - **Introduce New/Difficult Songs:** Move to a new song or one that requires significant effort while the choir members are still fresh.
  - **Focus on Sections:** Avoid singing the entire song from beginning to end every week. Instead, concentrate on “one or two sections” each week, reviewing previous work and adding new sections in subsequent rehearsals.
  - **Identify Patterns:** Help the choir see musical patterns, such as repeated sections, to aid in learning and memorization. Point out similarities and differences between sections (e.g., a chorus being identical except for the last two measures).
- » **Plan for Memorized Singing:**
  - Include at least one song in the rehearsal plan that the choir is working on memorizing.
  - **Overcoming Resistance:** For choirs hesitant about memorization, start with a well-known, uncomplicated song.
  - **Section-by-Section Approach:** Begin by having the choir sing a section (e.g., the chorus) with their music, then immediately sing it from memory. Progress to identical or similar sections, highlighting any differences, and continue singing from memory.
  - **Gradual Integration:** Add different sections in subsequent weeks, reviewing past work and putting sections together.
  - **Benefits:** By singing from memory in worship, they will experience freedom in leading and convey a more powerful message without being hindered by folders and sheet music. This practice will pay great dividends.

#### Phase 4: Rehearsal Administration & Communication

This phase covers the practical elements that enhance rehearsal flow and choir member engagement.

- » **Create Rehearsal Sheets:** Print a one or two-sided page for choir members to pick up as they arrive for each rehearsal you planned for this assignment in Phase 3. This rehearsal sheet improves rehearsal flow and provides additional information. Include:
  - **Rehearsal Order:** List choral songs in the order they will be rehearsed, including their presentation dates. This helps members organize their music and shows a planned approach.
  - **Congregational Song Lyrics:** Print the lyrics for congregational songs, including copyright information. These can serve as great devotional aids for personal worship.
  - **Announcements:** Include information on upcoming special services, extra rehearsals, or changes in rehearsal times.
  - **Website Promotion:** Advertise your church's worship prep website and the worship ministry's website, if applicable.
- » **Maintain Consistent Communication with Choir Members:**
  - Describe how you will communicate with the choir during the week. Consider these suggestions from the material (pp. 191-192).

#### Phase 5: Incorporating Discipleship (The Most Crucial Part)

This is an ongoing, vital aspect of every rehearsal. Make notes in your rehearsal plan of how you will intentionally incorporate discipleship moments as outlined below:

- » **Bring Lyrics to Life:** As the worship leader, it's your responsibility to help the choir understand the **biblical foundations** of the song lyrics, connect their **personal testimony** with the song's testimony, and genuinely understand what they are singing.
- » **Foster Deep Connection:** This emotional, spiritual, and intellectual connection to the song will make a huge difference in their presentation.
- » **Utilize Teachable Moments:** Don't limit discipleship to a scheduled devotional time. Instead, look for many teachable moments throughout the rehearsal. For example, stop a song mid-rehearsal to discuss the message and its relevance, then resume singing with renewed emotion and passion. This helps the choir's singing become more profound and their lives be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Present the project as a combination of a written and oral report.**