



TEXAS NORTH CENTRAL ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION MUSIC DEPARTMENT

*"COLLABORATING TO BUILD THE MINISTRIES
THAT BUILD THE CHURCH TO BUILD THE KINGDOM"*

MUSIC DEPARTMENT WORKSHOP MATERIALS

June 6, 2026

Taking Care of Your Instrument – Yes, Your Voice is Your Instrument!

Sis. Andrea P. Thomas

Probing: Understanding your voice

- What does your instrument look like?
- How does it function?
- Why should I care? (Good Vocal Health)

Preparation: Learning the basics and mastering them

- For protection
- For stability
- For improvement
- For longevity

Posture

Breath Control

Placement

Intonation

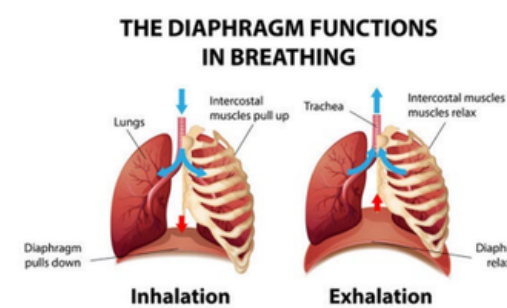
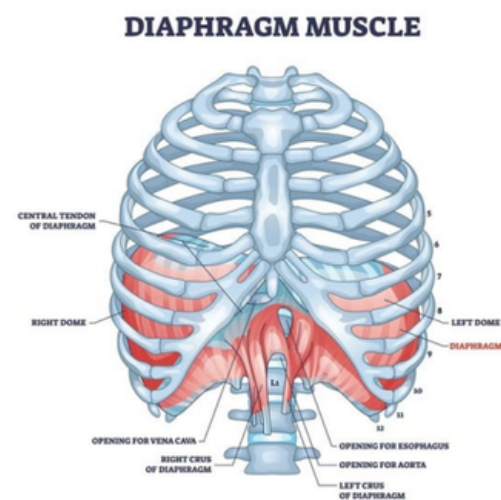
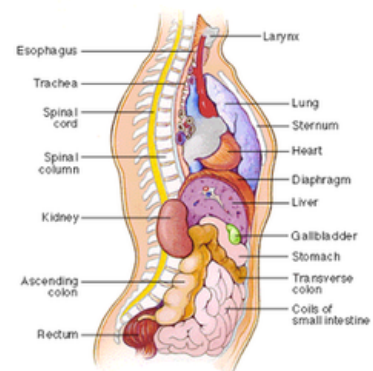
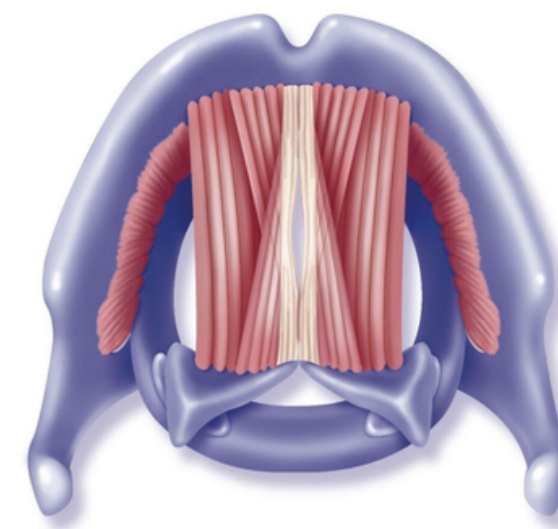
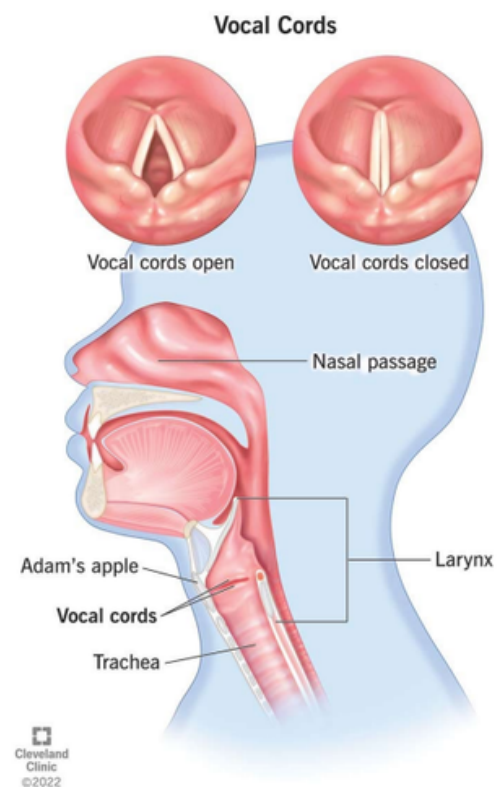
Vocal Agility (Flexibility)

Protection: Do what is best for you

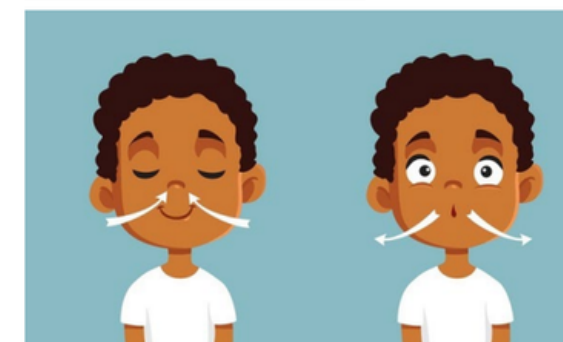
- Sleep
- Hydration
- Diet
- Speaking Voice Protection

Practice: What is realistic for you?

- Develop Good Habits
- Daily vs. Preparation for An Event



DEEP CLEANSING BREATHING



What Should I Feel As I'm Singing?

NO PAIN!

- There should be a feeling of a free open throat – a feeling that the tone originates from the diaphragm and merely passes through the throat's opening, as a steady pressure from the diaphragm keeps the tone flowing evenly.
- There should be a loose, dropped jaw that is slightly tucked in from the rest of the body.
- There should be a sufficient opening of the mouth (generally the width of two fingers) with the lips in a slightly puckered (rounded) position.
- There should be a relaxed, arched tongue – the tip of which rests easily against the lower front teeth.
- There should be a feeling of the vocal cords coming together without strain.

Ministering Suggestions

- Sense your individual responsibility of properly preparing yourself both spiritually and musically for every service.
- Reflect the meaning and the mood of a song with your face, as well as, with your voice.
- Be aggressive – be a leader in the matter learning music even at the expense of making a mistake.
- Listen to the voices immediately around you as you try to make your voice blend with other voices. If you hear only yourself, you are singing too loudly. If you can't hear yourself, you aren't singing loud enough.
- Maintain your poise/composure and keep going no matter what happens. Forget past mistakes. Make up in the new phrase what you may have missed in the previous phrase. It is possible that the mistake may have gone unnoticed by the congregation.
- Be natural and friendly with the audience, yet keep dignity regarding such matters as questionable clothing, accessories, conversations, or any action that might attract attention to you rather than to your ministry.
- Guard your voice carefully. Do all that is possible to keep it in the best condition, always. Refrain from excessive yelling and straining, staying in drafts, avoid physical fatigue or heavy eating just before singing.
- Prayerfully desire and expect God to move greatly during your time of ministry, as well as, to impart an inspiration and blessing to the congregation. Don't be content to merely get through the song.

Texas North Central AIM
CONFERENCE 2026
MUSIC DEPARTMENT TRAINING
SESSION

THE ROLE OF THE MINSTREL IN MUSIC MINISTRY

A Biblical and COGIC Perspective

Prepared by:
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Former TNC Jurisdiction Minister of Music

Key Scripture:

"And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him."

— 2 Kings 3:15

THE BIBLICAL ROLE OF THE MINSTREL

A minstrel is more than a musician.

A musician plays music.

A minstrel ministers through music.

The biblical minstrel serves as a spiritual vessel who helps create an atmosphere conducive to worship, ministry, and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY:

Minister unto the Lord first, and then serve His people.

1. SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

— John 4:24

Every effective minstrel must maintain:

- A consistent prayer life
- Personal worship
- Study of God's Word

- Consecrated living
- Submission to spiritual leadership

Principle:

You cannot effectively lead others where you have never been spiritually.

2. A HEART FOR TRUE WORSHIP

"The Father seeketh such to worship him."

— John 4:23

True worship is:

- ✓ Not performance
- ✓ Not entertainment
- ✓ Not emotional manipulation

True worship is:

- ✓ Surrender
- ✓ Reverence
- ✓ Adoration
- ✓ Obedience

Question:

Am I seeking God's presence or people's praise?

3. REFILLING AFTER EMPTYING

Ministry requires continual pouring out.

Signs of spiritual depletion:

- Loss of joy
- Spiritual dryness
- Irritability
- Mechanical ministry
- Lack of sensitivity to the Holy Spirit

Methods of Refilling:

- Prayer
- Personal worship
- Scripture meditation
- Rest and renewal
- Fellowship with believers

Principle:

You cannot continually pour out without being poured into.

4. PREPAREDNESS FOR PRESENTATION

Preparation honors God.

Spiritual Preparation:

- Prayer

- Consecration
- Sensitivity to the Spirit

Musical Preparation:

- Practice
- Rehearsal
- Song familiarity
- Excellence in execution
- Punctuality
- Order
- Communication
- Knowledge of service flow

Principle:

Anointing is not a substitute for preparation.

5. SUPPORTING THE FLOW OF WORSHIP

"Let all things be done decently and in order."

— 1 Corinthians 14:40

The mature minstrel understands:

When to play

When to pause

When to build

When to transition

When to stop

The objective is not to control worship, but to support what God is doing.

- Sometimes the most spiritual note is silence.

6. COMMON CONCERNS IN MUSIC MINISTRY

Pride

Giftedness without humility becomes dangerous.

Competition

Kingdom ministry requires cooperation, not comparison.

Burnout

Serving without renewal eventually weakens ministry.

Lack of Submission

Every minstrel must remain accountable to pastoral leadership.

Performance Mentality

Ministry seeks transformation.

Performance seeks applause.

THE MINSTREL'S CREED

M – Minister unto God First

I – Intimacy with God Daily

N – Navigate Worship Flow Wisely

S – Stay Spiritually Filled

T – Train and Prepare Diligently

R – Reflect Christ, Not Self

E – Encourage Genuine Worship

L – Lead Others into God's Presence

FINAL CHALLENGE

The greatest compliment a minstrel can receive is not:

"They can really play."

But rather:

"The anointing rests upon their ministry."

"Ministry Before Music

Anointing Before Ability

Presence Before Performance"

Thanks so much to our Texas North Central President of the State Choir, Sis. Cassandra Roberson-Kelley for allowing me this voice as she moves the TNC State Choir to its next level of excellence. I'm rooting for your success.

Dr. Alvin L. Pope

Pastor - Calvary's Nation of Faith Church