

Dawson Family of Faith

# Sanctuary Orchestra

2021-2022 HANDBOOK



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# WELCOME



Welcome to the Dawson Sanctuary Orchestra! My name is Dan Mullis and I have the privilege of conducting this great group of musicians. Together with my wife, Carrie, it is our hope that you will find this orchestra to be one that not only pursues excellence, but also enjoys times of great laughter, prayer and spiritual growth together.

We each bring our unique musical experiences to this group seeking to give our best offering of worship. Some come discovering or re-discovering their instrumental talent while some come having studied and developed their talent deeply. Whichever way you come to this ministry, we want you to know you are welcome.

You join with a much larger group of musicians both here and universally that have proclaimed the gospel through music for centuries! Your participation in this ministry is more than musical. Your input and presence will make a spiritual impact on us all and we welcome you to share and receive as we all do.

It is an exciting place to play, fellowship and grow in your walk with Christ. I am so glad you are here.

**“Listen to the village musicians gathered at the well as they recount the righteous victories of God and of his people, Israel.” Judges 5:11**



**DAN & CARRIE MULLIS**  
**ASSOC. MUSIC & WORSHIP MINISTER**  
**DMULLIS@DAWSONCHURCH.ORG**



# IN ONE ACCORD

In music, an individual note brings its unique qualities, tone and timbre to the whole chord. When we join an orchestra, we are joining our unique talents, personalities and experiences. We individually come to be an important part of the whole helping to make one another stronger. Here are some guidelines to help us serve in one accord together.

## Our Mission & Ministry

The Dawson Sanctuary Orchestra has been ministering in the greater Birmingham area for over 30 years. We desire through music, to become and help others become faithful servants of Jesus Christ. We live this out by leading in worship, participating in community events and offering musical training and concerts. Annually we present two special services.

- *Candlelight at Dawson*: Together with the Sanctuary Choir, we present these special services every third weekend in December.
- *Good Friday Tenebrae*: In the Spring we present a service that features instrumental music and scriptural meditations.

**“Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to his name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of his holiness.” Psalm 29:2**



## More Than a Music Gig

It is important to remember that as you play in the orchestra, you are doing so as a worship leader here at Dawson. This is a unique experience to be able to lead the congregation in worship, and thus, we should approach this as more than a music gig. Worship is more than the music. It is the time when we as one body join together to remember, repent and refresh through fellowship, music, giving and listening. We are given the holy task of leading our congregation.

There will be times when you personally like some songs over others, and there will be times when you play or may not play so as to help other parts speak more clearly. Whatever the case may be, our primary goal every week is to provide an underscore to worship that helps connect the worshiper to their Savior and reminds them of the victories He has provided.

## Orchestra Membership

In general, we have an open enrollment with the orchestra for anyone ages high school to adults. There is no formal audition but instead ask you to attend at least 2 rehearsals and have a brief interview with the director to determine the best part for you to play. Once you have joined us we ask that you stay connected through faithful at home practice, group rehearsals and playing for worship and concerts. We all have those times when we may need to be away. When this comes up, please be sure to let your section leader or the conductor know.

# WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW

## Rehearsals: Wednesday Night, 6:30pm

Rehearsals are typically in the Sanctuary and begin promptly at 6:30 pm and will finish by 8:00 pm. We will have a few “Bonus Rehearsals” from time to time as we prepare for special services and events (i.e. Candlelight, Holy Week). Please see your Highlights Calendar at [www.dawsonchurch.org/sanctuaryorchestra](http://www.dawsonchurch.org/sanctuaryorchestra) for those dates and times.

- Talking is natural but please respect others around you when the conductor on the podium.
- Please be in your seat with instrument tuned and music out by the downbeat.
- We cover a lot of music within our rehearsal time so we ask that you do whatever you can to be here on time so we will all be best prepared.
- Be considerate and look for ways to always encourage musical and spiritual growth.

## Worship: Sunday Morning Services

On the Sundays when we are scheduled to lead in worship, we will play for all 3 services. These Sundays begin with a 7:25 run through of the service in the Sanctuary and then we play for 8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 worship services.

**Dress for worship services should reflect a respect for the position of a worship leader at Dawson. Further explanation can be found in our Apparel Guidance addendum.**



- When we leave a service, please go as quietly as possible, taking instrument and music.
- When you are finished securing your instrument, we ask that you proceed back to the sanctuary for the remainder of the service or join a LifeGroup for Bible study.
- Fragrances should be worn with discretion.

## LifeGroups

LifeGroup Bible Study is where you have the opportunity to connect with others, grow spiritually, pray deeply and enjoy added fellowship. Participating in a LifeGroup allows each of us to learn the word and connect with the body of Christ each Sunday. A full list of options can be found at [www.dawsonchurch.org/lifegroups](http://www.dawsonchurch.org/lifegroups).

## Community: Concerts, Teaching, Mentoring

In addition to leading worship at Dawson, we are engaged as musicians throughout our community. We do this through presenting seasonal concerts, teaching in the community and providing mentoring opportunities to students in music ministry.

# MINISTRY RESOURCES

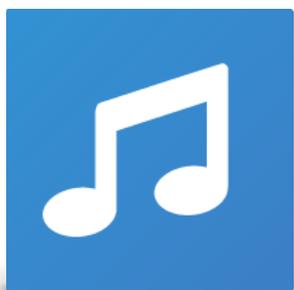


## REMIND APP

The Dawson Sanctuary Orchestra utilizes Remind as a group text service to notify musicians of any changes, reminders or updates. This is a key way that we are able to communicate with everyone quickly. You do not need the app as these messages will come into your device Messages app. We do not give out your number and you will not receive junk messages. Please register by sending the following:

**Text Message: @dawsonorch**

**To Number: 81010**



## MUSIC STAND APP & PLANNING CENTER ONLINE

After joining the orchestra you will be entered into our database called Planning Center Online. You will receive a confirmation email once registered and you can then set your own password. All rehearsal music, mp3's and service music will be made available to you through their Music Stand App so you can practice at home. This app is free at all app stores allowing you to access these files through your computer, phone or tablet. Furthermore, you are encouraged to use your own tablet for rehearsals and services as well if you desire.

# Apparel Guidance

FOR WORSHIP LEADERS



# Servant Leaders In Worship

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## **WE ARE ONE**

Worship leaders serve by preaching, singing or playing music, reading scripture or leading a prayer, giving the welcome or sharing announcements. We serve as a part of the congregation we lead, so we dress like them.



## **WELCOMING NEW LEADERS**

Leading for the first time can be challenging enough without having to worry about what to wear. Here we share what we have learned from our experience in leading the Dawson Family of Faith in worship.



## **HOSPITALITY MATTERS**

We choose clothing that reflects personal style and personality, while remembering that these choices are an act of hospitality and humility. Personal expression is secondary to effectiveness in our leadership.



## **SERVING IS WORSHIP**

We are servants of the congregation. Our goal in worship is to encourage their voice.

# Apparel Guidance

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## MEN

### Shirts

Yes: Long or short sleeved shirts with a folded collar; shirt tail tucked in.  
Jacket, tie, and/or sweater optional.

No: T-shirts; shirts with logos or distracting patterns.

### Bottoms

Yes: Solid slacks.

No: Jeans; brightly colored or distracting pants; distressing or holes.

### Shoes

Yes: Dress shoes or boots in neutral colors.

No: Athletic shoes, sneakers of any kind, flip flops, sandals, or distinctly casual boots.

### Special Apparel

For some special services, the worship or event leader will choose all black clothing. Please do not wear "All Black Clothing" performance apparel for worship or event leadership unless requested.

For some special services, the worship or event leader will choose an event-specific t-shirt. For these events, either all of us or none of us will wear them when we lead. No communication means we will not be wearing the event t-shirt. Please do not wear event t-shirts for worship or event leadership unless requested.



# Apparel Guidance

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## WOMEN

### Shirts

Yes: Loose-fitting and longer, flowing shirts; shirts tucked in, or the bottom of shirt resting at low hip with arms fully raised; both shirts and tops need sleeves.

No: Sleeveless shirts or tops, t-shirts; white or sheer fabrics, logos or distracting patterns, cap sleeves, shoulder cutouts, busy prints, short or cropped shirts.

### Bottoms

Yes: Tailored dress pants in a modest cut and dark colors.

No: Jeans; brightly colored or distracting pants; distressing or holes.

### Dresses & Skirts

Yes: Hem at top of knee or lower; worn with or without solid, dark or neutral colored tights or leggings; sleeves required.

No: Hemlines above the knee, sleeveless dresses, sheer fabrics, distracting prints or colors; tights or leggings made of lace or other patterns.

### Shoes

Yes: Dress shoes in styles including flats, wedges, boots, or heels.

No: Athletic shoes, sneakers of any kind, flip flops, sandals, or distinctly casual boots and wedges.

### Special Apparel

For some special services, the worship or event leader will choose all black clothing. Please do not wear "All Black Clothing" performance apparel for worship or event leadership unless requested.

For some special services, the worship or event leader will choose an event-specific t-shirt. For these events, either all of us or none of us will wear them when we lead. No communication means we will not be wearing the event t-shirt. Please do not wear event t-shirts for worship or event leadership unless requested.



# Apparel Guidance

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## ALL BLACK CLOTHING

For some special services, the worship or event leader will choose all black clothing. Please do not wear "All Black Clothing" performance apparel for worship or event leadership unless requested.

### Men

- Yes: Solid, dark-black, long-sleeved shirt with folded collar and black buttons.  
Shirt tail tucked in and cuffs buttoned.  
Solid, dark-black pants that touch top of shoes .  
Solid, dark-black dress shoes and socks.  
Solid, dark-black belt.  
Solid, dark-black jacket, optional.  
Black clothing only. No visible colored garments under black clothing.
- No: No tie; no white or colored buttons on shirt or pants; no cologne.

### Women

- Yes: Solid, dark-black top and pants.  
Solid, dark-black dress with sleeves and hem to the knee.  
Stud earrings, optional.  
Black clothing only. No visible colored garments under black clothing.
- No: No velvet, sheer fabric, or excessive texture; no necklaces or perfume.



# Helpful Tips

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## FOR ALL EVENTS

While looking in a mirror, exaggerate the movements you may be doing in worship to ensure you remain modestly covered.

Remember that the platform is elevated, so those on the floor are seeing you from below. Hemlines will appear shorter from the congregation.

Choose shoes and clothing that allow you to enter and exit the platform confidently and quietly.

Solid colors look best. Bold and busy patterns can be distracting on camera.

# Questions?

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## PLEASE REACH OUT

As servants of the congregation, our goal is to lead worship services that are free from distraction.

As always, please contact the Music & Worship office or your event leader if needed. We are happy to answer questions or clarify details at any time. You can reach John Woods at 205-871-7324 or [jwoods@dawsonchurch.org](mailto:jwoods@dawsonchurch.org).

If you have any questions regarding the Sanctuary Orchestra or if you are interested in joining us, please Contact Dan Mullis, Associate Music & Worship Minister, at the information below.

**Office:** 205.871.7324 x.731 **Mobile:** 205.441.8712 **Email:** dmullis@dawsonchurch.org  
[www.dawsonchurch.org/sanctuaryorchestra](http://www.dawsonchurch.org/sanctuaryorchestra)



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Dawson Memorial Baptist Church  
1114 Oxmoor Road • Birmingham, AL 35209  
(205) 871-7324 • Prayer Line: (205) 795-PRAY  
[dawsonchurch.org](http://dawsonchurch.org)