
Music Submission Content Guidelines

Hymnbook and Children's Songbook Revision

The contribution of hymns and songs that teach the gospel of Jesus Christ is immeasurable. The sacred music of the Church can have a powerful effect on the minds and hearts of members worldwide—inviting the Spirit into their lives and bringing them closer to their Savior. We are grateful for the many powerful hymns and songs that have already been submitted by members worldwide, and for those who have not yet submitted music, the following guidelines and points of emphasis may help invite additional inspiration. Petition your Heavenly Father for help as you give consecrated effort of your time and talents, your gifts and your love, and He will bless you with wisdom and understanding as you help to build His kingdom in this important way.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Sacred music is most effective when it:
 1. **Increases faith** in **and worship** of our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.
 2. **Teaches core doctrine** with power and clarity.
 3. **Invites joyful singing** at home and at church.
 4. **Comforts** the weary **and inspires** members to endure in faith.
 5. **Unifies** members throughout the Church.
- Writers can use the scriptures and messages from modern prophets for inspiration. Hymns and songs emphasizing the doctrinal points listed below are especially encouraged.
- Instead of just teaching about Church doctrine and principles, texts can invite a personal connection to the topic, with language that includes all members regardless of culture, level of spirituality, and life situation.
- Hymns and songs should present gospel truths in a positive, hopeful light and not make members feel burdened with more to do.
- Texts should avoid obscure words and phrases and difficult Church jargon.
- In addition to music and text that appeals to adults or to children, tunes and messages that will strengthen and appeal to youth are also encouraged.
- Music composed in traditional styles (similar to [previously requested and published pieces](#)) and in more modern or culturally varied styles, which may resonate with the Church's increasingly diverse membership, will be considered.
- Hymns that invite unison singing and those that invite part singing are both encouraged.

DOCTRINAL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- **Praise and Worship**—We should [honor](#) our [Heavenly Father](#) and His Son, [Jesus Christ](#), through regular, meaningful [praise and worship](#).
- **The Atonement of Jesus Christ**—The [Atonement of Jesus Christ](#) overcomes the [effects of the Fall](#) of Adam and Eve.
 - Jesus Christ conquered [spiritual death](#) and paid the price for sin; He offers us [mercy](#) and [peace](#) as we [repent](#) and [come unto Him](#) in [faith](#).
 - Jesus Christ conquered [physical death](#); we can [rejoice](#) in knowing that all of us will be [resurrected](#) and live forever.
 - Jesus Christ suffered every [mortal pain, temptation, and affliction](#); as we place our trust in Him, He will strengthen us to endure the [trials](#) of mortality.
 - Jesus Christ offers [grace](#) to help us change and [become like Him](#). We can humbly ask God to bless and help us as we seek to develop [Christlike attributes](#).

- **The Plan of Happiness**—We will find lasting joy as we follow our [Heavenly Father’s plan](#) for us.
 - God invites us to walk in His [covenant path](#), which marks our way back to Him.
 - We bind ourselves to Jesus Christ by receiving essential [ordinances](#) and by making and keeping sacred [covenants](#).
 - We can show our love for Heavenly Father by [obeying](#) His commandments.
 - We can choose to be [happy and grateful](#), even during times of trial.
- **Gospel Learning and Revelation**—We can seek spiritual knowledge and receive personal [revelation](#) for our lives.
 - We can receive [answers to gospel questions](#) through the [Holy Ghost](#), who will teach us the truth, guide and protect us, and help us live righteously.
 - We can move forward in faith as we strengthen our own personal [testimonies](#).
 - Gospel learning is centered in the home through regular individual and family [scripture study](#) and [prayer](#).
 - [Temples](#) are holy places of worship and learning where we can receive peace and revelation.
- **The Family of God**—As beloved [spirit sons and daughters](#) of Heavenly Parents, we are all members of the family of God, and each of us has a [divine identity and purpose](#).
 - We have a responsibility to [minister in love](#) to our brothers and sisters.
 - Jesus Christ will help us speak, act, and [serve](#) as He would.
- **Our Families**—“[Happiness in family life](#) is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ” (“The Family: A Proclamation to the World”).
 - Jesus Christ has given [sacred responsibilities](#) to mothers and fathers.
- **Priesthood Power and Authority**—Jesus Christ’s [priesthood power](#) and [priesthood authority](#) are given to [women and men](#) as they [unitedly participate](#) in the [work of salvation](#). All of us—including [girls and boys](#)—are blessed through God’s [priesthood](#).
- **The Restoration of the Gospel**—We are blessed to live in the time of the [Restoration](#) of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus Christ restored His Church through [Joseph Smith](#).
 - The [Book of Mormon](#) is another witness of Jesus Christ. It confirms the truths found in the Holy Bible. We can read and ponder its teachings and then [pray to God to know](#) of its truth by the power of the Holy Ghost.
 - Jesus Christ continues to direct His Church through living [prophets](#).
- **The Gathering of Israel**—Jesus Christ has invited us to participate in the [gathering of Israel](#) on both sides of the veil.
 - We have been [promised blessings](#) as we participate in the redemption of the dead through [family history work](#) and [temple worship](#).
 - We have been promised blessings as we [share the gospel](#) with all of God’s children.
- **The Sabbath Day**—We show our Heavenly Father that we love Him by keeping His [Sabbath day](#) holy.
- **The Second Coming**—[Jesus Christ will come to the earth again](#) to rule and reign.
 - Although the last days will be filled with wickedness and difficulty, living the gospel of Jesus Christ gives us strength. As disciples of Jesus Christ we can [stand in holy places](#) and [need not fear](#).
 - We can rejoice in Jesus Christ’s [assurance of deliverance](#): “I shall come in my glory in the clouds of heaven, to fulfil the promises that I have made unto your fathers” (Doctrine and Covenants 45:16).
 - As we help to build the kingdom of God on the earth, we prepare ourselves and others for Jesus Christ’s return.