

## Components of a Church “Music Culture”

(adapted from Jeff Todd Titon’s “Model of a Music-Culture” [2009])

### 1. *Ideas about Music*

- Describe your church’s **beliefs** about music.
  - What is music? What is music supposed to do as part of worship?
- Describe your church’s **aesthetics** (ideas about what is beautiful), and give some examples of how aesthetic preferences are expressed in it music.
- What aspects define the **context(s)** for music-making in your congregation? Are there any musical practices deemed appropriate in one setting but inappropriate in another?
- What sources chronicle the **history** of your church’s music?

### 2. *The Social Organization of Music*

- Describe the “**division of labor**” in your church’s music-making – who participates in it? What are the different roles for participants and leaders? Is there anyone who is not allowed to participate in leadership?
- What is the **status** of the worship leader(s) or music minister(s) relative to congregation members, and the **social role** of leaders in relationship to one another?
- Describe the **spatial orientation** of musicians and worshippers.
- How do the factors of **gender, ethnicity, class, or age** affect how people participate in music?

### 3. *Liturgical and Musical Repertories*

- Describe **style characteristics** of verbal and musical genres used within worship.
- List the predominant **musical genre** performed in worship.
- Describe the **texts** (including song lyrics) used in worship. Are they fixed, seasonal, improvised, etc.?
- How are liturgical texts and congregational music **composed**?
- How is music **learned** and **transmitted**?
- Are there particular bodily **movements** that accompany music-making?

### 4. *Material Culture of Music*

- Give several examples of objects belonging to the **material culture** of music.
- How and when did these objects come to be a part of this music culture?
- Do these objects have symbolic value? If so, what do they symbolize?
- What audio and visual **media** are used in worship (e.g., books, printed bulletins, projection screens)? How do these various media facilitate (or fail to facilitate) participation in music?
- Describe the worship **space**. What elements are fixed and which can be altered?

.....