

Mission Statement:

Music in Worship at Chalmers

Worship through music is of crucial importance to the worship life at Chalmers. Vitality in music comes from both excellence and diversity.¹ Words matter—in the expression of our music we as a congregation seek words that are meaningful to worshippers, integrated into the theme of worship and congruent with the theological trends presented in our worship more generally. With acknowledged roots in the classical tradition of church music, Chalmers seeks to be open to growth through new musical expressions. Our music strives to engage a wide variety of people, including children.

Approved by the Coordinating Council of Elders
12 May 2009

¹ Here, “excellence” is used as Thomas G. Long uses it: “what counts for musical excellence in worship is music in which we can genuinely participate but which also encourages us to grow into more mature and complex understandings of faith.” (*Beyond the Worship Wars*, Alban Institute, 2001, p. 63). “Diversity” in this statement suggests music from different genres, from different time periods, in different styles, from different cultural milieus as well as the inclusion of both historical and newly composed music in our worship. “Musical excellence across a broad range of musical idioms” is how Tom Long describes such diversity (*Beyond the Worship Wars*, p. 64).