

CHOIR BAND

ABOUT THE CHOIR

The Choir is an organized group of singers in churches; they are trained people in church Hymnology i. e. to sing together Church Hymns, Choruses or Anthems.

Biblically, 'Choir' is a word used to describe four main subjects in sacramental worship. Architecturally, the Choir were originally part of the Church which included the clergy i. e. it referred to the chancel or the sanctuary as a whole, and situated at the east-end of the church building. A Church therefore had two interrelated parts, the Choir and the Nave. It was architecturally further divided into the sanctuary, containing the altar and the place of the clergy. The laymen therefore had their place between the sanctuary and where we call "the choir stall" today and were not separated from each other. This architectural location of the Choir is the place that was always used for the celebration of the Eucharist, the communicants (the partakers of the Eucharist) and come from the nave (choir stall) to gather round the altar which was brought forward from the east side of the main inner place called SACRISTY or VESTRY.

"Vestry" or "Sacristy" is a room or annex of a Church, commonly located near the altar where furnishings for the altar are kept and where ministers (including the Choir) and the rest prepare themselves for divine worship.

Choir-Dancers are a group of people who exercise a ministry dance. The objectives of having such dancing group in the Cherubim and Seraphim Churches are five-fold:

1. **To the Choir:** They show what symbolic movement means in worship; and they develop Spiritual Embodiment.
2. **To the congregation:** It is part of responsiveness to the goodness received from God. In this respect, dancing Choir has five-fold function:
 - a) It may enrich service, the body in motion as symbol of worship of all present, in a way similar to the beauty of an anthem sung by a Choir
 - b) It may interpret through body movement, the measuring of what is taking place e. g. in baptism etc.
 - c) It may provide a seasonal note e. g. expressing the joy of Easter and sorrow of the cross.
 - d) It may be a source of instruction, as when a dance is presented with themes from the Bible.
 - e) It may exercise a leadership role encouraging the congregation by visible example in new ways of worship.
3. It can be directed to other congregation who may have been invited to visit, thereby creating an extension onto others outside the immediate locality of the Church.
4. The aged, the infirm and those unable to attend service in a church building worship can be enriched in old people's homes, geriatric ward, etc. by means of dance, and drama.

5. **For those who wish to learn something of the gospel:** The Choir will use dance as a teaching medium e. g. Sunday School, as part of parish mission.

SETTING UP DANCING CHOIR

The setting up of a Dance Choir requires careful attention of detail. Initially, the support of the local Priest, Minister or Local Church Leader is essential. There must be a willingness on the part of all would-be participants to be involved regularly in long hours of rehearsals.

There should be a leader with some aptitude for choreography. The resources have to be built up on tapes, books etc. Finance have to be carefully controlled; costumes will need to be designed and made; and consideration of the space available must precede every presentation.

MUSICAL CHOIR

The presence of a white-robed assembly of the sons of **Kohath** (second sons of Levi; Gen. 46:11), the ancestor of Moses (Ex. 6:16-20; Num. 3:17-10-9; I Chron. 6:1-3). His descendants, the Kohathites are one of three divisions of the Levites, comprised of four families (Num. 3:17-20; 27:31), These are subject of frequent references in the Old Testament as an account of worship before and after the dedication of Solomon's Temple.

Asaph: A Levite of the Gershonite family, appointed over the service of praise in the time of David and Solomon; and who apparently led the singing, sounded Cymbals before the ark, and set up a School of Music (I Chron. 16:5; II Chron. 5:12-14; Neh. 7:44); and

Heman: The first of the three Levites whom David appointed to lead in the musical instrument service (I Chron. 6:33). He was the "King's Seer" in the words of God to lift up the horn, with Jeduthun; a Levite whom with others, David set over the service of praise in the tabernacle (I Chron. 25:1-3). The above named group with their children were to give thanks and sing, and with Harps and Cymbals accompanying (Psalms 39:62 and 77) were dedicated to him and the sons of David, King of Israel and these Psalms were written after the manner of Jeduthun.

Under these three noble men of God, the Temple-Choir was divided into sections which undertook the ministry "by course" Both in Judaism and the early Christian Church, the skill and training were requisite in those whom we entrusted with the ministry of song. Sometimes around 360 A.D., the Council of Laodicea - a wealthy city in Asia Minor founded by Antiochus II (26) - 246bc) and head of the "Circuit" of the SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA (Col. 4:16) forbade all others to sing in Church beside the canonical singers. That inflexibility was not to survive but the need to ensure the worthiness of the music offered in worship which emphasized its sacredness.

Introduction of Choirs of men, boys and girls, i. e. all age worship, is the avowed intention to encourage the people to take up the responsibility as a singing congregation to provide a Choir which should lead the people in singing the Psalms and chanting their responses; and where possible to add the singing of a simple anthem as a stimulant to devotion. This will allow a genuine spiritual benefit for the Choir members themselves.

Genuine praises and adoration is spontaneous in C&S Movement Churches. God, through His active divine messages, demand praises from His creatures in commands transmitted to them. Praising Him from the heart is very imperative as this is linked to His every Being and nature of God

Examples of Praises:

- Musical Fiesta (K&S 119: 1&6)
- Songs of Moses (Exodus 15:1-18)
- Songs of Repentance (Nehemiah 9:5-7)
- Songs of Daniel (Gratitude) Daniel 2:19-23
- Children's Praises (Matthew 21:15-18)
- Preaching and Teaching (Motivation) 1 Thessalonian 2:1-8
- Outcry of Praise to God (Revelation 7:11-12)
- Fear Causes People to Give Glory to God (Revelation 11:13)
- Concluding Proclamation of Faith in God (Revelation 15:3-4)

BRIEF HISTORY OF DAKIBIYU HEADQUARTERS CHURCH CHOIR

The Choir Ministry started with the inception of Dakibiyu District Headquarters in 1990. It crystalized into the **Choristers Band** in 1992, and has grown in leaps and bounds over the years to its present enviable standing. Preceding every Annual Choir Anniversary Thanksgiving service, the Church Choir usually hosts an Annual Choir Fiesta, which features varieties of Songs, Dance and Drama.

Since inception to date, the Dakibiyu Headquarters **Church Choir** has had eight Choirmasters including the incumbent, who have excelled as vessels of God in effectively managing the Choir and Music Ministry to its enviable position. The Choirmasters are:

- Sp/Apos Muiyiwa Ajomale
- Sp/Apos Yinka Arogundade
- Sp. Apos Tolu Sonaike
- Apos Kayode Orekelewa
- Aladura Sis. Joke Erabor
- Bro. Babatunde Adebayo
- Sp/Apos Sunday Adeokun
- Sp./Apos/Pro Akin Aribanusi