

# Music on the Weekend

A Guide to Planning Music for a Via de Cristo Weekend



Produced by the Publication Committee of the  
National Lutheran Secretariat for Via de Cristo©

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## Preface

*This booklet has been prepared as a resource to assist you in planning the music for your weekend. It offers suggestions to enhance the progression of the weekend. Please feel free to adapt these suggestions as the Lord guides, and according to the traditions and practices determined by your Secretariat.*

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# Music on the Weekend

Music is dynamic of the Via de Cristo Weekend. It is much more than a time filler or tension reliever. As has been well said by Martin Luther, “Next to the word of God, music is the highest.” Note the strategic placement of music for the weekend:

- ❖ In the chapel of course, but also before rollos
- ❖ Singing before we eat, and the power of the community serenade
- ❖ Awakened for our Third Day by singing
- ❖ Welcomed into the Community at Clausura by singing

All music selected should heighten and enrich the Via de Cristo experience. It should punctuate the progression of each day and sum up the entire weekend. We are gently wooed to Jesus through the progression of the weekend, and the music should match where we are at any particular point. Please remember that Jesus may choose a song to be the moment of first introduction of Himself to the candidate; it often happens that way. Our music must pace itself with the weekend material. Suggested songs for each rollo are included with instructions to Music Cha later.

The primary quality sought in a Music Cha is enthusiasm and relative comfort in leading the singing. Playing an instrument is NOT a requirement. Actually, in group singing, the instrument is to introduce the pitch or first note and to provide the rhythm. If a Music Cha feels comfortable in her ability to hit pitch and set the rhythm, that is all that is necessary. There is certainly no need for professional level talent. With the team also familiar with the songs (because of the team training) the Music Cha will have plenty of help. Although a guitar or banjo is often used, any instrument is acceptable: for example, piano or keyboard.

Before the weekend the Rector and Head Music Cha should decide what songs will be sung during the weekend and a general idea as to when. Since many of the songs will be new to the candidates, they need to be repeated several times throughout the weekend. The better the candidates know a song, the more likely they will be to get into the song and the greater probability that it can speak to them. If there is a serenade, and the songs are already familiar to the candidates, the change in voices can be particularly effective. Before a serenade the Rector should confer with the serenade coordinator.

The character of each day is important in song selection. Thursday Night (if any music is used) we want “getting together” type songs, those most people are familiar with and social in nature. These songs will assist the candidates in relaxing; good secular songs are appropriate. On Friday the theme of the day is the ideal of Christians living a life of grace. It is low key, with songs encouraging community, and which are easy to teach.

The theme of Saturday is the grace filled life made possible by the love and character of Jesus. So, songs about grace, Jesus, and His character, are appropriate. Saturday is the time for-emotionally charged songs, and there is time for teaching songs. Sunday's theme is the candidate's presence in the world and their relationship to others. Songs of this day bring the world back in; they should be positive, and bring the candidates to the great challenge before them. Songs about the Holy Spirit, consecration, perseverance and holiness fit well into the theme.

Always consult with the Spiritual Director who is presiding at worship about songs for worship. Instrumental accompaniment is at a minimum during chapel. At no time should any copyright law be violated by a Via de Cristo associate. The law is very specific, and we will not break the law. If you plan to reproduce any words or music, check with your Secretariat for specific copyright requirements to do so. They have been furnished a copy of the latest reproduction requirements. If a special song occurs to a rector during the weekend, of course feel free to add it. More often than not it is Spirit inspired and God always knows what He is doing.



### **Music Leader**

Music is one of the very essential elements in the Via de Cristo weekend. As evidence of the precious respect for our music, note the critical placement of music within the structure of the weekend. We are serenaded at dinner, not simply fed a delightful and carefully prepared meal. We are gently called to our Third Day of the Weekend by beautiful singing. We are not simply welcomed into the Fourth Day Community by a crowd of loving people and applause ... we are welcomed with song. And we all certainly suffered through the agony of perfecting DeColores. Music is an integral part of our corporate worship. Even our Rollistas are welcomed into the Rollo Room community with a song.

The music should heighten and enrich the Via de Cristo experience. It should punctuate the progression of each day, as well as that of the entire weekend. It is more than a way to fill time or release tension.

We are being very gently wooed to Jesus through the progression of the Weekend. Music is one of the very critical dynamics in the process. The music that we present at any one time during the weekend should be carefully considered within the framework of the progression of the weekend. We must always keep foremost in our mind that a song may be the way Jesus meets any one candidate at any particular time within the weekend. Our music must keep pace with the progression ... with Jesus's gently revealing Himself.

The first task that you, as the Music Leader, have is to acquaint yourself thoroughly with the material written about the progression of the weekend. An understanding of the dynamics of the Weekend will make you sensitive as to where to position music during the weekend and when to introduce a song. You should then acquaint yourself with as much of the music in the songbook as possible. Only then can you, begin the process of sifting out the music you want to use for your weekend and make a choice of when and where to introduce it.

The selection process can best begin with the songs you choose for the team meetings. This is the ideal time to introduce songs that are not frequently sung. This is also a good time for the Music Leader to teach some background about the songs, to work out the kinks in various songs, to present any special styles or approaches of a particular song. This will equip the team to help you in your teaching of the music to the candidates.

The Music Leader begins, during the team meetings, to notice the dynamics involved in music selection. You will understand how to place a song within worship ... what is an appropriate gathering song, a communion song ... what songs simply do not fit the context of the Eucharist at all ... how might a song be sung differently when used as a communion hymn. You may also tie your music in with the liturgical season being celebrated during your team meetings and, thereby, discover another vantage point for looking at the music. The Music Leader should be aware of the lectionary used at each Eucharist and should select music that is compatible with it and which heightens the experience of the spoken word.

All during team training, the Music Leader is learning the selection process. You are also thinking about the team and what music best fits its particular character. Careful attention to song selection for the team meetings will facilitate the selection process for your Weekend music.

When you are ready to begin the process, acquire a complete schedule from your Rector of the weekend so that you know when music is planned each day and about how much time is allotted. Now you must also recognize that you need two types of music: social and Eucharistic. "This Land Is Your Land" is a social song; "Let Us Break Bread Together" is Eucharistic. Then you must divide the songs you want to use among the three days with careful attention to fitting the songs to the theme of the day and enhancing the emotional impact being created by that theme. Also consider references to any songs mentioned in a Rollo.

A word of caution here: All of this planning of music does not mean there is no room for spontaneity. But this careful preparation and thorough knowledge of the Progression makes the spontaneous song much easier to handle with grace. It fine tunes your instinct and allows you much more freedom to respond.

Now, let's look at the specific character of each day. If music is used at all on Thursday night you need "getting together" type songs, songs that may be familiar to many of the candidates when they arrive and are social in nature. These are songs that unite the group and help make the candidates comfortable. They are songs that put people at ease — which do not threaten them.

### Themes for Each Day

Friday...	"The Ideal of the Christian Living the Life of Grace"
Saturday...	"The Grace-Filled Life"
Sunday...	"The Candidates' Presence in the World and his/her Relations with Others"

The overall theme of the first day, Friday, can be expressed as "**The Ideal of the Christian Living the Life of Grace.**" This day is low key! The music should not be emotionally intense threatening. It should present the idea of community, since that is what we're in the process of carefully building throughout the day. The music on Friday should center on the ideal of the Christian life. It should speak to the reality of Grace in our lives. It should comfort and unite. It should present the image of a world transformed by the Christian ideal. It should also be, as much as possible, easy to teach.

On Saturday, the theme of the day is "**The Grace Filled Life,**" made active by the love and character of Jesus. The music this day speaks directly to the reality of Jesus Christ here among us, with us, loving us. The songs reveal the character of Jesus the man, the Savior, the Redeemer, the Lover, and the Footwisher. By now the community has been formed, and they are ready to receive Jesus into their midst. They are ready to sing, "Have You Seen Jesus, My Lord," and respond that "He's Here In Plain View." They are ready to greet a Lord who carried a cross to show us how much He loved us. The community is fully centered within itself. The candidates are protected from the intrusion of the outside world because they still have one more day before they must go back to it. If there is a time for very emotionally charged music, this is it! It's safe to cry. It's safe to allow the emotion of a song transport you to a greater depth and perception because the community is there, and because the person of Jesus is there and He loves you. You also have time to teach more demanding songs. The candidates have begun to enjoy the singing and aren't afraid to tackle something new and more difficult. They know you now and trust you to teach them well.

The theme of the third day is "**The Candidates Presence in the World and his Relations with Others.**" He/she has met Jesus and knows and trusts Him. Now he/she needs to look at the world with this transformed vision. The songs this day should bring the world back in. They should carry the candidates back to his/her world. They should tell him/her about opening his window and passing it on. He/she has been to his/her mountaintop. Now he/she has to look out and around and bring a bit of the mountain top back to the world. The music on Sunday should be "up" and joyful and should speak to the marvelous possibilities that are ahead for the renewed candidates. And remember that the candidate is tired and vulnerable, and in need of your joy and your encouragement.

Music is an incredibly beautiful dynamic in the wonderful framework of a Via de Cristo Weekend. Cherish it and let yourself be used as an instrument to enrich this experience for everyone present. Let the love of God permeate the musical offering that you as the Music Leader have to bring to you weekend. A few special things to remember for the musician to remember are:

1. You are the message as much as the song itself. Stress to ALL team members that the most beautiful of songs can fall flat if people's hearts are not in the message. Their body language and "invisible selves" will give them and you away.
  2. You must be comfortable with whatever songs you sing, or whatever actions you do. A "really neat thing" that someone else did with a song may not work for you if you're not comfortable with it. BE YOURSELF AND GOD WILL USE YOU! "Comfortable" can also be achieved by being more familiar with the music. If new songs are introduced, it should be during the team building process, not on the weekend itself.
  3. In music the term "joyful" does not always mean loud and/or fast. Joyful means intense which comes from the hearts and souls of people. This is especially true in serenades. The excitement can be in your voices and the songs can remain a serenade and not become a reveille.
  4. If someone says that they learned a particular song another way (implying the correct way), it's okay. Tell them that one of the beautiful aspects of music is that there are many variations in the tunes. Let them know that you are happy to give them the opportunity to learn another variation. (Even John Denver doesn't sing his songs the same way he wrote them!)
  5. Problems with specific words in songs, i.e., brothers/sisters/neighbors/etc. This usually must be confronted on women's weekends. Please keep in mind that copyrighted songs must always be reprinted with the original words. Face the issue, and change "brothers" to "sisters" if you wish. Treat the subject lightly as possible and let the candidates choose whatever words they care to sing. If you make one or the other mandatory, it may get difficult. Who really cares anyway if some are singing "neighbors," and others are singing "sisters" or "brothers"? If you're not up tight about the issue, no one else will be either (at least not for very long).
  6. Be flexible with your song schedule and be aware of what is going on around you on the weekend. As the weekend progresses into Sunday, you may feel that a particular song for Sunday seems more appropriate than one on your schedule. Feel free to change the schedule. You'll probably find that the Spirit is right — God knows what He is doing.
  7. Your primary duty is Music Leader; however, in slow periods the Head Cha may assign other tasks to you. Perform them as cheerfully and enthusiastically as you perform your favorite song!
- One final note for information only. The word "amateur" comes from the word "love." A good motto is "Whatever I lack in talent, I make up for in enthusiasm." If you have any doubts about your abilities, remember this — your message is your love! The candidates will remember your love longer than they will remember (or care) whether or not you missed an F#.

## The Dynamics of Music

Music is an important dynamic used throughout the weekend. It is vital to Via de Cristo, certainly not something “tagged on.”

The dictionary defines “dynamic” as a force producing motion. Singing is a force that causes people to become involved. It’s a good way to build community. It creates an atmosphere and teaches about a message. This begins at the team meetings. It’s important that the team members be enthusiastic in their singing to draw the candidates in. Some of the candidates will hold back at first, but by Sunday morning they may be the most enthusiastic singers there.

The most important thing a music leader can do is “be yourself.” It’s better to be awkward and real than to be polished and phony. A loving attitude is far more important than one’s musical or singing abilities.

### 1 . Music as a way of communicating.

- a. Singing is communicating at the deepest level. It helps people connect with, themselves and then with others.
- b. Singing gets the physical side connected with the thinking side to provide personal wholeness. It is one of the most powerful and fastest “glues” or “tools” for bringing about this connection.
- c. Singing allows people to give expression to their feelings.
- d. It brings people together in a common language. It’s also a terrific “ice breaker” and helps relieve tension.

### 2. Creating an atmosphere for participation

- a. What do you want to have happen? You don’t make people sing. You set up the atmosphere and allow them to sing. It’s already a part of everybody.
- b. Singing creates an atmosphere for learning. It opens up people to give and take.
- c. Songs should be appropriate for the occasion or subject under discussion.
- d. People need to feel at ease to sing. Create an atmosphere that is safe, non-intimidating and supportive. One of the ways to put the candidates at ease and eliminate the feeling of intimidation is by the use of songbooks or songsheets. Everyone should use a songbook, even if those who know the song from memory. (This includes the Music Leader).
- e. Music is not the problem when people won’t sing. If there is a problem, it is usually the attitude of the Leaders and atmosphere. Leaders allow folks to sing and let go. Good group dynamics are practiced when there is a blend of enthusiasm, a willingness to be lighthearted, and then not trying so hard. An atmosphere will then be created for involvement, and folks will sing naturally.

What follows is a list of appropriate song suggestions for different times. It is intended as a helpful resource and is not all-inclusive. Some songs are more appropriate than others. Keep in mind that some songs affect men and women differently. Team meetings will be helpful in determining the unique character of each weekend.

Remember that the list below is by no means “all inclusive” of music that can be used in connection with these rollos. There are many other songs that are appropriate to the rollos. This list is provided as an indication of types of songs that stay within the flow of the weekend at that particular time.

## Songs for Worship

Abba Father*	Alleluia
Bind Us Together*	Every Morning Is Easter Morning*
God Is So Good	I Am the Bread of Life*
Borning Cry*	Jesus My Lord*
Just As I Am*	Let Us Break Bread Together
Lift High the Cross*	Morning Has Broken
Sing Hallelujah to the Lord*	Surely the Presence*
Weave*	Here I Am Lord*
Amazing Grace	They'll Know We Are Christians
This Is My Father's World	Beautiful Savior
Blessed Assurance	Christ the Lord is Risen Today
He's Got the Whole World	How Great Thou Art
I Am the Light of the World	I Am the Resurrection
Jesus Loves Me	Kum Ba Ya
Lord, the Light of Your Love	Open Our Eyes, Lord*
Our God Reigns*	Pass It On
Seek Ye First	Something Beautiful
Spirit of the Living God	The Old Rugged Cross*
Through the Love	What a Friend We Have In Jesus
Let The Son of God Enfold You*	I Love You, Lord

*\* Not suggested for Friday*

## Song Suggestions for Each Talk

### **Ideal**

The Church Within Us  
Seek Ye First  
Softly and Tenderly

I Have Decided  
They'll Know We Are Christians  
Morning Has Broken

### **Grace**

Amazing Grace  
God Is So Good  
Borning Cry  
Softly and Tenderly  
What a Friend We Have in Jesus  
Kum Ba Ya

Father, I Adore You  
He's Got the Whole World  
Jesus Loves Me  
This Is My Father's World  
They'll Know We Are Christians

### **Laity**

The Church Within Us  
Have Thine Own Way  
Pass It On  
This Little Light of Mine  
Here I Am Lord  
In Christ There Is No East or West

Give Me Oil in My Lamp  
I Have Decided to Follow Jesus  
Seek Ye First  
When the Saints Go Marching In  
They'll Know We Are Christians

### **Grace in Action**

Abba Father Send Your Spirit  
Pass It On  
Softly and Tenderly  
Borning Cry

Spirit of the Living God  
God Is So Good  
Freely, Freely  
Jesus Loves Me

## Piety

Abba Father	Father, I Adore You
Give Me Oil in My Lamp	Have Thine Own Way Lord
I Have Decided to Follow Jesus	Pass It On
Lift High the Cross	Prayer of St. Francis
Seek Ye First	Something Beautiful
Spirit of the Living God	This Little Light of Mine
Here I Am Lord	They'll Know We Are Christians

## Study

Abba Father	Abba Father Send Your Spirit
Give Me Oil In My Lamp	Have Thine Own Way Lord
Open Our Eyes Lord	Seek Ye First

## Day In the Life or Means of Grace

Amazing Grace	Beautiful Savior
Be Not Afraid	Blessed Assurance
Bind Us Together	Christ the Lord Is Risen
Today	Every Morning is Easter Morning
Father, I Adore You	God Is So Good
How Great Thou Art	I Am the Bread of Life
Borning Cry	Jesus Loves Me
Jesus My Lord	Just As I Am
Kum Ba Ya	Lift High the Cross
Lord the Light of Your Love	Majesty
Open Our Eyes Lord	Our God Reigns
Sing Hallelujah To The Lord	Softly and Tenderly
Spirit of the Living God	Surely the Presence of the Lord
The Old Rugged Cross	Through the Love
Weave	Were You There
What A Friend We Have in Jesus	Here I Am Lord

## Action

Abba Father Send Your Spirit	Bind Us Together
Every Morning Is Easter Morning	Give Me Oil in My Lamp
He's God the Whole World in His Hands	I Am the Light of the World
In Christ There is no East or West	Jesus My Lord
Lift High the Cross	Lord the Light of Your Love
Let the Son of God Enfold You	Pass It On
Prayer of St. Francis	This is My Father's World
This Little Light of Mine	Weave
Here I Am Lord	They'll Know We Are Christians

## Obstacles To Grace

Abba Father Send Your Spirit	Be Not Afraid
Bind Us Together	Have Thine Own Way Lord
I Am the Bread of Life	I Am the Light of the World
I Have Decided to Follow Jesus	Jesus Loves Me
Just As I Am	Lord the Light of Your Love
Let the Son of God Enfold You	Pass It On
Prayer of St. Francis	Seek Ye First
Something Beautiful	Weave
Through the Love	

## Leaders

Abba Father Send Your Spirit	The Church Within Us
Give Me Oil In My Lamp	Have Thine Own Way Lord
I Am the Light of the World	Jesus My Lord
Lift High the Cross	Lord The Light of Your Love
Pass It On	Prayer of St. Francis
This Little Light of Mine	Weave
O Let the Son of God Enfold You	Here I Am Lord

## Environments

Abba Father	Abba Father Send Your Spirit
The Church Within Us	Give Me Oil In My Lamp
I Am the Light of the World	Jesus My Lord
Lift High the Cross	Lord the Light of Your Love
Pass It On	Prayer of St. Francis
O Let the Son of God Enfold You	Surely the Presence
This Is My Father's World	This Little Light of Mine
Weave	Here I Am Lord
They'll Know We Are Christian	

## Life In Grace

Amazing Grace	Be Not Afraid
Blessed Assurance	Bind Us Together
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today	Every Morning Is Easter Morning
Father I Adore You	God Is So Good
How Great Thou Art	I Am the Bread of Life
I Am the Light of the World	I Am the Resurrection
Borning Cry	Jesus Loves Me
Jesus My Lord	Just As I Am
Kum Ba Ya	Lift High the Cross
Lord the Light of Your Love	Majesty
Open Our Eyes, Lord	Our God Reigns
Sing Hallelujah to the Lord	Softly and Tenderly
Spirit of the Living God	Surely the Presence
Through the Love	Weave
Were You There	What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Here I Am Lord	O Let the Son of God Enfold You

## Christian Community in Action

Bind Us Together	The Church Within Us
Every Morning Is Easter Morning	Freely, Freely
Give Me Oil in My Lamp	Here I am, Lord
I Am the Light of the World	Lift High the Cross
In Christ there Is No East or West	Pass It On
Prayer of St. Francis	Spirit of the Living God
Surely the Presence	They'll Know We Are Christians
Weave	

## Total Security and/or Fourth Day

Be Not Afraid	Bind Us Together
Surely the Presence	Jesus My Lord
Weave	They'll Know We Are Christians

**Please note:** Not all of the songs listed above are included on the Church Copyright License List (CCLI). Before using any song, be sure to determine legality of its method of reproduction.

# Appendix

## **Proper Licensing of Music Used on the Weekend**

(Some notes from the 1996 Annual Meeting of the NLS)

It is essential that music reproduction and the limitations imposed by copyright licensing laws, regulations, restriction, and available resources be undertaken within copyright law. The National Lutheran Secretariat is unable to provide a “blanket” copyright licensing for all of our member Secretariats. Proper duplication, dissemination, and control of music resources is a responsibility that rightly rests with the individual Secretariats. CCLI, LicenSing or any other licensing service should be used.

Improper and illegal copying of music is a poor reflection of the Christian message central to Via de Cristo. Therefore, the place of the National Lutheran Secretariat, in its capacity as an advisory body to the member Secretariats, is provide basic guidance as to what is legal and what is illegal in the dissemination of music, both for weekend and 4th Day use.

The best method of preventing illegal dissemination of music is through the purchase of pre-published songbooks and collections of music. The negative aspects of this method are a) cost; b) lack to total inclusivity of desired songs; c) lack of ability to add selections as new songs are introduced.

The production of individual music resources by the Secretariats, with copyright compliance assured through purchase of a “blanket license” such as is offered by Church Copyright Licensing, Inc. is strongly encouraged. The negative aspects of this method, besides the investment of time and effort, include the fact that not all songs desired are currently covered under CCLI. In this case, each individual publisher of uncovered songs must be contacted and the individual copyright paid on an annual basis. The diversity of size, scope, and preference of each individual Secretariat represented by the Committee’s members precluded any consensus appropriate to all on this issue. It was felt that the National Lutheran Secretariat could only stand in an information-dissemination position, and an encourager of legal process on the licensing issue.

Among the resources investigated was a brochure entitled “Copyright Law and the Local Church.” In simple question and answer form, it covers all but the most exotic issues in legal dissemination of published music. If not included in this book, it is available from .