



SUGGESTIONS ON MUSIC

Important Essentials of Good Singing

Singing can play an important part in good Kiwanis fellowship. Spontaneous singing will lead to a better spirit of cooperation, and in many ways be the difference between an uninteresting club and a lively one.

- The services of a really competent pianist or small instrumental ensemble. If no pianist is found among the club members, consider securing a music student.
- The selection of songs in advance. Plan songs so your accompanist is prepared.
- A definite period of time assigned for club singing. Appropriate times come either while tables are being cleared or immediately prior to the introduction of the speaker.
- Songbooks, a piano, and a vantage point from which the song leader can conduct is a must for a complete sound.
- A variety of Kiwanis songs and popular, standard songs should be sung on a key to suit the members' voices.
- The greatest asset of all is a song leader who has the ability to instill enthusiasm in the crowd and can capture the audience.

Song Leader on the Job

Have you ever attended a meeting where there has been a short delay in the service? The members become hungry and slightly bored and may sit around

trying to make conversation. An alert song leader senses the tension and with little effort starts the club singing a popular number.

Special Musical Numbers

The club not only should be concerned about group singing, but from time to time should arrange for special musical presentations, such as vocal or instrumental soloists or small groups. Such musical numbers add enthusiasm to the club meeting.

Talented individuals in the community and school music departments may provide the musicians. Try not to overlook the talent in the club membership.

Music in the Community

Kiwanis clubs can extend the influence of music to the entire community. Sponsoring musical activities in the community is an excellent means of encouraging the cultural arts as well as promoting good fellowship and enjoyment.

Suggestions for Music Activities

- Music festivals involving vocal and instrumental soloists and groups.
- Youth bands and orchestras.
- Drum and bugle corps.
- Youth and adult choruses.
- Community singing programs.
- Provision of instruments, music, and uniforms for musical groups.

Guidelines For Song Leaders Of Kiwanis Clubs

Always plan your singing in advance. Arrange with your presiding officer for a scheduled singing time, and know how much time you will be provided. Plan songs with your accompanist so he or she is prepared. If no accompanist is available, sing songs you know so you can lead the club without accompaniment.

Stand so the accompanist and the audience can see you. It is best to be done in front of a group. If this is not convenient or your group is singing halfheartedly, move among them while leading, but *be sure your accompanist can see you at all times.*

Select songs carefully. Keep them within the spirit of the meetings. Select songs to tie in with the speaker or the topic. Change the pace of songs. Go from the stirring to the dreamy. Emphasize expression in the singing. Use popular songs as well as the standards, but use some Kiwanis songs at every meeting. The Kiwanis Family Store Catalog offers a songbook with selections suitable for most occasions. Be ready to sing a greeting song for guests. If the club members do not know this song, practice it some day when no visitors are present.

Try new songs and special stunts in singing. The same old songs soon go stale. Special singing stunts raise interest. Involving physical movement such as *When Kiwanis Calls* provides great fun and will relax the group for a few moments before the speaker is introduced.

A brief introduction to a song gives it added meaning. Explain why the particular song is being sung, talk about the composer, or tell how the song's relates to the program.

Change the key or pitch of a song. Many songs are written too high or too low for good group singing. Recognize this in the songs, and ask your accompanist to raise or lower the key. The accompanist may not want to use the song until he or she has had time to practice it in the new key.

If you are using a parody, make sure you know it well. Be thoroughly familiar with all parodies before you try to lead them. Protect your club from trouble and embarrassment by avoiding any infringements of music copyrights. This involves printing or duplicating of copyrighted music in any form.

PLEASE NOTE: Sing with a positive attitude. If you think that the group will not respond very well, they won't. If you look eager, enthusiastic, and show that you expect a hearty response, you will get it!

HAPPY SINGING!