



## **Approaches to Musical Worship at Capernwray Hall**

### **Musical worship is biblical**

We believe musical worship to be a core aspect of community fellowship at Capernwray Hall, and that it is one of the many ways that our staff, students, visitors, and guests are able to connect with and deepen their relationship with the living God. We believe that Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs, are able to teach, admonish and communicate wisdom (Colossians 3:16) and are marks of the Spirit-filled life (Ephesians 5:19).

### **Musical worship enriches**

Capernwray Hall is not a church, and as such is interdenominational. We therefore welcome students, staff, and guests from many different backgrounds, churches, and styles of musical worship. Through sung worship we aim to see all members of the community enriched, and not divided by, our cultural and stylistic differences.

### **Musical worship unites**

We believe that the songs sung at Capernwray Hall complement the preaching of God's Word. We therefore strive to choose songs rooted in scripture that enhance the services in which they are used. We avoid potentially theologically contentious or confusing songs, instead aiming to draw those in worship closer together. Songs are assessed on their biblical faithfulness rather than the stable from which they emerged. New songs are reviewed by permanent staff before being sung publicly, to ensure they are biblically grounded.

### **Worship leaders must be Jesus followers**

We believe that those leading musical worship have an essential role to play both on and off stage, being placed in a role of pastoral care not just for the congregation they are leading, but also for the musicians with whom they are practising and playing. We believe they should be 'lead worshippers', committed and obedient followers of the Lord Jesus who are walking in close fellowship with Him and committed to serving both Him and His people.

### **Leading sung worship is a gift**

We expect our musicians to be well-rehearsed before leading public worship, knowing that the gifts given to them in leading are to be used diligently and servant-heartedly both in private and public. We also believe that musical worship is not a performance - so while practice is essential, we do not look for performances. As Psalm 98 says, we are called to make a "joyful noise" to the Lord - not a perfect noise.