

# Audio Engineer Training

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## Summary

In order to maintain the tradition of excellent technical support and audio mixing that Coast Hills has enjoyed, we desire to develop a training program that will enable non-professional sound engineers to thrive and succeed. We want to develop the gifts God has given our people, and empower them to mix with excellence.

The purpose of this document is to define the training protocol that we will follow for each individual who desires to mix Front of House for Coast Hills.

You will note there are no timelines attached to any phase of this process. We believe in highly individualized training and moving people along as quickly or slowly as they need to be successful. We will not push someone through to the next step before they are ready, nor will we hold anyone back. The goal is to help our audio volunteers be successful and maintain the high standards we've come to expect.

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## Phase 1: A2

The first step in the process will be to join the tech team as an A2. The A2 will assist with set up and tear down of the stage before and after weekend services. The purpose of this phase is to completely familiarize the volunteer with the CHCC audio system, to the point of being able to set up, tear down and troubleshoot on their own.

**Graduation Requirement:** Demonstrate the ability to completely set up the stage for a weekend service on their own (following the input sheet provided).

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## Phase 2: Basic Training

The next step is to begin training on the SD-8 with the Technical Director. This training will familiarize the volunteer with basic operation with the goal being to be able to run a mid-week service on their own.

- Powering on audio system
- Loading the baseline show file
- Proper use of gain structure and soundcheck procedures
- Basic monitor mixing
- Proper shut down of audio system

**Graduation Requirement:** Under the guidance of Technical Director (or ATD), successfully complete the above steps and feel completely comfortable running a mid-week service.

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## Phase 3: Saturday Rehearsal Mixing

Once the operator is comfortable with the training provided in phase 2, they will be scheduled to mix for the Saturday rehearsals.

- The A2 will observe the A1 mix the first pass through the song during rehearsal. The A2 will then mix the second run through of the song, based on the A1's snapshot.
- After demonstrating proficiency with the above, the A2 will begin mixing the first pass of the song, after which the A1 will complete any touch ups and write the snapshot.
- As proficiency increases the A2 will begin mixing the Saturday night service.

**Graduation Requirement:** Several successful Saturday night services, and the desire to commit to the next levels of training

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## Phase 4: Advanced Training (A1 Candidate Phase 1)

At this step, the engineer will spend more time with the Technical Director developing more advanced level skills of mixing; putting together a musical mix, EQ, dynamics, effects and snapshots. The goal of this step is to develop sufficient skills to mix a weekend service with the same level of excellence that Coast Hills is known for. This phase of the training will be highly individualized for each engineer.

- Advanced gain structure and soundcheck procedures
- Skills training in fundamentals of music mixing
- Proper application of EQ, dynamics effects and snapshots
- Operation of multi-track record and playback (virtual soundcheck)
- Operation of personal monitoring system
- Advanced troubleshooting of entire audio system

**Graduation Requirements:** Demonstrated ability to successfully perform the above skills, as well as the approval from the Technical Director to move forward.

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## Phase 5: Guided Mixing of Weekends (A1 Candidate Phase 2)

At this point, the engineer has demonstrated sufficient skills and aptitude to begin mixing on weekends under the direction of the Technical Director. This phase could be likened to the final hours before getting one's solo pilot's license. This phase of the training will focus on hitting cues properly, working with the band, adjusting personal monitor mixes and putting together a great mix.

- Working closely with the TD, the A1 candidate will lead the soundcheck, set gains, adjust personal mixers and mix the service
- Recording to both CD and hard drive
- Successfully mix a weekend service

**Graduation Requirements:** Successful performance on a weekend and approval from Technical Director.

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## Phase 6: Solo Mixing

By now the engineer has completed all phases of training and will be entrusted to lead the audio portion of the weekend service. Training will be ongoing at this point to further develop the engineer's skills as a mixer. Further training topics will include:

- Parallel compression
  - Multiband compression
  - Dynamic EQ
  - Use of Macros & Snapshots
  - Automation
  - Remote Mixing
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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_