

Improving the Atmosphere of Sunday Worship Through Music Services at GKI Hermon Hollo Him

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Abstract

Community Service Activities (PkM) by the Church Music Department at GKI Hermon Hollo Him aims to improve the atmosphere of Sunday worship through the integration of various musical elements. The main problem faced is the lack of music that can touch the hearts of the congregation and deepen their spiritual experience. This activity is also a vehicle to enrich the worship experience by using musical ensembles, soloists, song leaders and keyboard players. The method used is demonstration, where lecturers and students apply their musical knowledge in Sunday services at the church. The results of the activity showed a significant increase in the quality of worship music. The ensemble's musical performance combines instruments such as keyboard, violin, flute, and saxophone, along with a medley of Kidung Jemaat 387 and Papuan folk songs, creating a deep harmony that enriches the worship experience and celebrates cultural richness. The soloist's appearance and support from the keyboard player add an emotional and spiritual dimension. Song leaders also play an important role in leading the congregation, creating togetherness and quality song delivery. In conclusion, this PkM succeeded in deepening the spiritual experience and improving the atmosphere of worship at GKI Hermon Hollo Him as a whole.

Keywords: Worship Atmosphere, Services, Church Music, Sunday Worship, GKI Hermon Hello Him

INTRODUCTION

Music services in the church play a strategic role in building a spiritual atmosphere, thereby enabling the congregation to experience meaningful worship. Music is a form of expression and a means of communication between people and God (Eko Agus Setiawan, 2023; Sirait, 2021; Taylor, 2023; Verry Willyam, 2023). Music is an effective medium for conveying spiritual messages and building a conducive atmosphere for people to unite with God (Bubmann, 2022; Joseph, 2015; Warren, 2006; Westermeyer, 2013). Through the contribution of music, the atmosphere of worship becomes more lively, full of meaning, and able to move the hearts of the congregation (Mahanani Astika, 2014; Taylor, 2023; Ulam, 2019).

At GKI Hermon Hollo Him, the involvement of Church Music Department Lecturers and Students in Sunday services has had a significant impact on improving the atmosphere of worship. The contribution of the Church Music Department to Sunday services at GKI Hermon Hollo Him is not only realized through improving the overall quality of music, but also through developing ensemble

music formats, solo singing, song leaders, and keyboard players. Each of these elements plays an important role in building a worship atmosphere that touches the hearts of the congregation, allowing them to feel God's presence more truly.

Ensemble music, consisting of various instruments such as keyboard, violin, flute, and saxophone, provides a strong harmonic foundation and enriching musical texture in every praise and worship experience. Each instrument contributes unique timbres and tonal qualities that, when combined, create a fuller, more resonant sound. Different worship traditions use a variety of instruments to enhance the musical experience (Calamia & Braasch, 2007). Musical ensembles achieve harmony through factors such as member characteristics, leadership models, task distribution, decision making, relationships, and collective commitment to perfection (Lim, 2014)

Apart from ensembles, solo singing is also an important element in strengthening the atmosphere of worship. Solo singers are given the opportunity to express spiritual messages

personally and emotionally through their voices (Baker, 2023). Songs performed by soloists usually have a focus on deep lyrics, allowing the congregation to reflect on divine messages more intensely. In moments of solo singing, the atmosphere of worship often becomes quieter and more reflective, providing space for the congregation to pray and communicate privately with God.

The presence of song leaders or groups of singers adds a layer of vocal harmony that enriches the atmosphere of worship. Song leaders share sounds that create vocal harmony (Simanungkalit, 2013). Through singing, the congregation is invited to participate in collective praise, strengthening the sense of togetherness and community in worship. The songs sung by song leaders often inspire enthusiasm and joy in worship, making the congregation feel more connected to each other.

The role of keyboard players in worship is also very significant. Keyboards are often the main accompaniment instrument that establishes the basic atmosphere of each song. With the various sounds that can be produced, the keyboard is able to create varied musical nuances, ranging from calm to more dynamic ones. A skilled keyboard player can easily follow the flow of worship, playing notes that suit the desired mood, whether in energetic praise or gentle worship.

In collaboration between ensembles, soloists, song leaders, and keyboard players, Sunday worship at GKI Hermon Hollo Him becomes more dynamic and diverse. Each musical element complements the other, creating a richer worship experience. Ensemble music provides a harmonious foundation, while soloists add a personal element, song leaders bring a spirit of togetherness, and keyboards create an emotional atmosphere appropriate to moments of worship. These four elements work together to create a more lively and meaningful worship service.

The contribution of the Church Music Department to Sunday worship at GKI Hermon Hollo Him through ensemble music,

solo singing, song leaders, and keyboard players with the aim of bringing a significant improvement in the atmosphere of worship. The congregation not only enjoyed beautiful music, but also felt God's presence more through every song. The collaboration of various musical elements creates a more solemn, dynamic and meaningful worship atmosphere, bringing the congregation closer to God in every moment of worship.

METHOD

Implementation of Community Service activities at GKI Hermon Hollo, GKI Sentani Class. This activity was carried out using the demonstration method. Lecturers and students demonstrate techniques for playing ensemble music, solo singing, and using keyboards in church services. This means that lecturers and students act as instructors who demonstrate how to sing spiritual songs with good vocal technique, and how to play the keyboard with appropriate sound settings for the worship atmosphere. After that, the congregation can try to follow it.

PkM activities will take place on September 15 2024 at 09.00-11.00 WIT. The participants consisted of members of the GKI Hermon Hollo congregation who attended Sunday worship. PkM activities are based on programs directed by the STAKPN Sentani institution.

Stages of activities in implementing activities include:

1. Activity Planning: Identify congregational needs related to music ministry; Coordination meeting between lecturers and students to determine the concept of music to be performed, including the type of ensemble, songs for soloists, song leaders, and the role of keyboard players; Determining the training schedule and carrying out worship activities.
2. Technical Preparation: Selection of songs and arrangements that suit the theme of worship; Preparation of musical instruments, such as keyboards and other ensemble instruments; Distribution of tasks to students for their respective roles in

ensemble, soloist, song leaders, and keyboard.

3. Training and Rehearsal: Intensive practice with lecturers as supervisors to ensure the technical and artistic quality of each piece of music; Rehearsal combines the ensemble, soloist, song leaders, and keyboard to form harmony and cohesion in worship music.
4. Implementation of Activities: Music service in Sunday worship at the GKI Hermon Hollo Him Congregation; Musical ensembles, soloists, song leaders, and keyboard players take turns contributing to the service.
5. Evaluation and Reflection: Joint evaluation after worship to assess the success of the activity from a technical and spiritual perspective; Gathering feedback from congregations and church leaders; Reflections from lecturers and students regarding experiences during activities.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Music Ensemble

Ensemble music refers to a group of musicians performing together, usually involving many instruments or voices. This can include orchestras, bands, choirs, and smaller groups such as quartets or trios (Hewitt & Allan, 2013). The goal of ensemble music is to create a harmonious and cohesive performance, where each musician's part contributes to the musical whole (Hewitt & Allan, 2013). Ensemble performance involves distributed creativity, where musical performers interpret, improvise, and adapt together, often achieving best performance through dynamic interactions and group flow (Bishop, 2018; Pennill & Breslin, 2021).

Ensemble music is a collaborative form of several musical instruments played together to create harmony and an atmosphere that supports the congregation in worship. This activity is part of the contribution of lecturers and students to support church music services. On the day of implementation, the ensemble team

played live music at the GKI Hermon Hollo Him congregation's Sunday service.

Ensemble music, consisting of various instruments such as keyboard, violin, flute, and saxophone, provides a strong harmonious foundation and enriches the musical texture in every praise and worship. The harmonious sound of instruments provides a solemn atmosphere and supports the congregation to be more devout in worship. Sunday worship gets an appropriate musical touch, with a tempo and dynamics that are in harmony with the spiritual atmosphere that is being created.

Community Service (PkM) activities by the Church Music Department at GKI Hermon Hollo Him involve ensemble music by combining the singing of Kidung Jemaat 387, "Kuheran Allah Mau Memb'ri", in a medley format with the Papuan regional song, Ninowe. The aim of this activity is to enhance the congregation's worship experience by integrating various musical elements that reflect rich culture and spirituality. Through intensive ensemble practice, the music team combines musical instruments and vocals to create a harmonious and heartfelt performance. The combination of spiritual songs and regional songs provides a refreshing local touch and enriches the congregation's worship experience.



Figure 1.1 Lecturers and Students of the Church Music Department play ensemble music combining the singing of Kidung Jemaat 387, "Kuheran Allah Mau Memb'ri", in medley format with the Papuan regional song, Ninowe

This activity also provides an opportunity for Church Music Department

students to apply the musical knowledge and skills they learn on campus. Students not only act as musicians, but also as leaders in several ensemble parts. They are responsible for setting the tempo, maintaining harmony between instruments, and ensuring that each team member plays their role well.

This activity had a significant positive impact on the GKI Hermon Hollo Him congregation. The congregation feels more emotionally involved in worship, because the ensemble's music is able to touch their feelings and bring a deeper spiritual atmosphere. Ensemble music is also an effective means of conveying spiritual messages through harmonious and coordinated instrument sounds.

After carrying out the activities, a joint evaluation and reflection was carried out between students and lecturers. This evaluation aims to assess the success of activities from a technical and spiritual

The following is a description in table form for information about ensemble music in PkM activities:

Table 1.1 PkM Results through Music Ensemble:

Aspect	Description
Implementation at GKI Hermon Hollo Him	The ensemble team plays live music during Sunday services, providing harmony that supports the solemn atmosphere of the congregation.
Instruments Used	Instruments used include keyboard, violin, flute, and saxophone, creating a strong harmonic foundation and enriching the musical texture in praise and worship.
Contribution to the Worship Atmosphere	Ensemble music provides a solemn atmosphere, supporting the congregation to be more devout in worship with a tempo and dynamics that suit the spiritual atmosphere.
Opportunities for Lecturers and Students	Church Music Department lecturers and students act as players and ensemble leaders, setting the tempo, maintaining harmony between instruments, and ensuring each part is played well.
Impact on the Congregation	Ensemble music creates deep emotional engagement for the congregation, enhances the quality of worship, and is an effective means of conveying spiritual messages.
Evaluation and Reflection	After the activity, an evaluation is carried out jointly between students, lecturers and the congregation to assess technical and spiritual success, as well as reflection on experiences in service.
Overall Impact	PkM activities through ensemble music succeeded in improving the atmosphere of worship, providing educational benefits for students, and had a positive impact on the GKI Hermon Hollo Him congregation.

perspective. Feedback from the congregation and church leadership is important input for improving the quality of ensemble music services in the future. Apart from that, students are also given the opportunity to reflect on their experiences in serving and collaborating in a church music team.

PkM activities by the STAKPN Sentani Church Music Department at the GKI Hermon Hollo Him Congregation through ensemble music have succeeded in improving the atmosphere of worship and providing a positive impact on the congregation. Ensemble music is not only an artistic means, but also a tool for conveying deep spiritual messages and uniting the congregation in an atmosphere of solemn worship. Apart from that, this activity also provides educational benefits for students, who can develop their skills in church music ministry.

2. Soloist

A soloist is a musician or singer who appears individually in a musical performance, either in the context of an ensemble or orchestra (Oksana, 2021). Soloists achieve spontaneity in their performance by varying musical movements, varying tempo and stability, and using cognitive control over phrase boundaries (Demos et al., 2016). The soloist's role is to perform a dominant, focused musical or vocal part, usually with musical accompaniment from other instruments or from a musical group.

In the context of church services, soloists often play a role in bringing spiritual songs with the aim of strengthening the atmosphere of worship and conveying spiritual messages to the congregation (Calitz, 2017). Soloists in worship activities not only act as singers, but also as ministers who convey spiritual messages through music. In the context of PkM, lecturers who are soloists have a big responsibility in expressing the meaning of songs with full spiritual sensitivity. This service through music is also a concrete example for lecturers about how music can be an effective tool in church service.

A soloist must have good technique and expression to be able to convey the meaning of the song deeply and touch the hearts of the listener. One form of significant contribution to PkM activities is the presence of soloist lecturers who perform the spiritual song "God Always Helps Me". This song was chosen because of its strong lyrics, reminding the congregation of God's faithfulness in all circumstances, and delivered with deep musical expression.

The choice of the song "God Always Helps Me" is based on the relevance of the spiritual message to be conveyed to the congregation, especially in times of challenges and difficulties. Lecturer soloists from the Church Music Department were chosen because of their high ability to express the meaning of songs musically and spiritually. Before the

performance, the soloists prepare themselves thoroughly through intensive vocal training, including an emphasis on interpreting the lyrics so that the message conveyed is livelier and more impactful for the congregation.

During the worship service, the lecturer's soloist appears before confession. This moment was chosen so that the song could be a deep introduction to introspection before the confession process. It is hoped that the song's soulful sound and lyrics can prepare the hearts of the congregation, help them enter a solemn and reflective atmosphere, and deepen their spiritual experience before expressing regret and asking for forgiveness from God.

When the soloist began singing the first verse, the congregation was immediately drawn into a solemn atmosphere. Many members of the congregation reflect the song's lyrics in their personal lives. This song reminds them of God's goodness which is always present in every aspect of their lives. The soloist's performance supported by the keyboard player provides a soft yet strong musical foundation and also enriches the musical texture, creating harmonies that support the soloist's vocals. This combination provides a dramatic effect that matches the message of the song, reinforcing the spiritual meaning of each verse sung.

The soloist's performance of the song "God Always Helps Me" not only had an emotional impact, but also spiritually for the congregation. Many of them feel reminded of God's faithfulness in their daily lives, especially in facing life's problems and challenges. This song is a means of spiritual reflection that strengthens the congregation's faith and adds depth to their worship experience.



Figure 1.2. Lecturer soloist who performed the spiritual song "God Always Helps Me"

The PkM activities of the Church Music Department at GKI Hermon Hollo Him

through soloist performances with the song "God Always Helps Me" succeeded in creating a deeper and more solemn atmosphere of worship. The lecturer's contribution as a soloist, supported by beautiful musical accompaniment, provides a deep spiritual experience for the congregation. This activity not only has a positive impact on the congregation, but is also an opportunity for lecturers to learn about music ministry in the church, strengthening lecturers' skills in serving God through music.

The following is a description in table form for information about soloists in PkM activities:

Table 1.2 PkM Results through Soloists

Aspect	Description
Soloist Role	Featuring a dominant, focused musical or vocal part, usually with musical accompaniment from other instruments or musical groups.
Role in Church Ministry	Bringing spiritual songs to strengthen the atmosphere of worship and convey spiritual messages to the congregation. The soloist acts as a servant who conveys the spiritual meaning of the song.
Responsibilities in PkM	Lecturers who are soloists have the responsibility to express the meaning of the song with spiritual sensitivity. This is a concrete example of how music can be an effective tool in church services.
Technique and Expression	Soloists must have good vocal techniques and expressions to convey the meaning of the song deeply and touch the hearts of the listeners.
Song Selection	The song "God Always Helps Me" was chosen because of its strong lyrics and the relevance of the spiritual message to be conveyed to the congregation, especially in times of challenge and difficulty.
Appearance Preparation	Soloists prepare themselves through intensive vocal training, including an emphasis on interpreting lyrics so that the message conveyed is livelier and more impactful for the congregation.
Appearance Time	Soloists perform before confession on the day of worship. This moment was chosen so that the song could be an introduction to introspection before the confession process, preparing the hearts of the congregation with a solemn and reflective atmosphere.
Appearance Impact	The soloist's performance of the song "God Always Helps Me" had a deep emotional and spiritual impact on the congregation. This song reminds the congregation of God's faithfulness and strengthens their faith, creating an atmosphere of solemn worship.
Evaluation and Conclusion	PkM activities through soloist performances succeeded in enhancing the atmosphere of worship and providing a deep spiritual experience. This activity also provides educational benefits for lecturers in church music ministry.

3. Song leaders

Song leaders are musicians or singers who perform by singing songs

individually or in groups in a musical performance. In the context of church ministry, song leaders play an important

role in enriching the worship experience by delivering spiritual songs and congregational hymns that help the congregation connect spiritually and emotionally. Song leaders' function to convey spiritual messages and the meaning of spiritual songs through their vocals. They help the congregation absorb the lyrics and deepen the spiritual meaning of each song. With their vocal abilities, song leaders strengthen the atmosphere of worship, creating a solemn and deep atmosphere, and supporting congregational worship.

Song leaders often lead the congregation in singing, motivate them to participate actively, and create an atmosphere of togetherness during worship. Song leaders use a variety of vocal techniques and expressions to improve the quality of song delivery. This includes the use of sound dynamics, vocal harmonization, and lyrical emphasis to provide a more immersive musical experience.

In Community Service (PkM) activities at GKI Hermon Hollo Him, song leaders from the Church Music Department play an important role in helping the congregation sing all the congregation's spiritual songs and hymns. They lead and support the congregation with their vocals, ensuring that each song is sung with quality and depth of expression. Their appearance aims to enhance the congregation's worship experience and strengthen the spiritual message conveyed during Sunday services.



Figure 1.3. Song leaders sing various spiritual songs and congregational hymns that suit the theme and atmosphere of the service

Community Service Activities (PkM) carried out by the Church Music Department at GKI Hermon Hollo Him involve three lecturers who serve as song leaders or singers. Lecturers who act as song leaders use skilled and varied vocal techniques to improve the quality of song delivery. They utilize techniques such as vocal harmonization, sound dynamics, and lyrical emphasis to add depth and meaning to each song. This approach ensures that each part of the song is delivered in a way that touches the hearts of the congregation.

With the presence of three song leaders, the atmosphere of Sunday worship at GKI Hermon Hollo Him becomes deeper and more meaningful. Quality vocal performances help create a more solemn and grateful atmosphere. Congregants feel more emotionally and spiritually connected to the songs sung, deepening their worship experience.

During worship, song leaders present various spiritual songs and congregational hymns that suit the theme and atmosphere of the service. PkM activities through the performance of song leaders have had a significant positive impact on the congregation. Many congregants feel more connected to the spiritual meaning of the songs sung and experience a more heartfelt worship experience. Harmonious vocal music helps in reinforcing spiritual messages and increasing congregational participation in worship.

The following is a description in table form for information about song leaders in PkM activities:

Table 1.3 PkM results through Song leaders

Aspect	Description
Role in Church Ministry	Song leaders play an important role in enriching the worship experience by delivering spiritual songs and congregational hymns that help the congregation connect spiritually and emotionally.
PkM activities at GKI Hermon Hello Him	Song leaders from the Church Music Department play an important role in helping the congregation sing all the spiritual songs and congregational hymns, ensuring that each song is sung with quality and deep expression.
The presence of lecturers as song leaders	Three lecturers act as song leaders, using skilled and varied vocal techniques to improve the quality of song delivery and add depth and meaning to each song.
Impact on the Congregation	The atmosphere of Sunday worship becomes more profound and meaningful, the congregation feels more emotionally and spiritually connected to the songs sung, deepening their worship experience.
Interaction with the Congregation	Song leaders interact directly with the congregation, providing good examples in singing, motivating, and creating an atmosphere of togetherness through music.
Positive impact	Providing a significant positive impact on the congregation, many feel more connected to the spiritual meaning of the songs sung and experience a more heart-touching worship experience.

4. Keyboard Player

On the day of worship at GKI Hermon Hollo Him, lecturers from the STAKPN Sentani Church Music Department acted as keyboard players. This role is very crucial in supporting the entire series of worship activities, especially in leading all the songs sung by the congregation. The presence of a keyboard player provides a stable and harmonious musical foundation, enriching the congregation's worship experience.

This keyboard player is responsible for regulating the tempo and dynamics of the songs, ensuring that each song is sung with optimal quality. With expertise in playing the keyboard, the lecturer not only acts as an accompanist, but also as a musical atmosphere regulator that supports congregational worship. Every keyboard keystroke and chord change are adapted to the theme and atmosphere of the service, creating adequate harmony.

Before the service begins, the keyboard player lecturer makes preparations by studying the entire list of songs that will be sung. This preparation involves intensive practice to ensure

smooth transitions between songs, as well as adjusting tempo and dynamics to match the rhythm of the service. The keyboard player coordinates with the song leaders and ensemble to ensure that all musical elements work in synchronization.

During the service, the keyboard player plays a central role in setting the tempo and directing transitions between songs. By playing supporting chords, the lecturer ensures that each part of the song has the right feel and tempo, allowing the congregation to follow along smoothly. Keyboard players also utilize improvisational techniques within predetermined limits to maintain the spirit and diversity of the music.

The presence of lecturers as keyboard players makes a big contribution in creating a deep and solemn atmosphere during worship. Through skillful keyboard playing, the atmosphere of worship becomes more harmonious, with each song sung with feeling and appropriate emphasis. The presence of a keyboard helps congregants feel more connected to each song sung, strengthening their spiritual experience.

The keyboard player also functions as a mediator between the congregation and the music, ensuring that each song is delivered with high quality and deep expression. Skill in playing the keyboard allows the lecturer to adapt the musical performance to the needs of the service, including changes in tempo and dynamics necessary to create an appropriate atmosphere.

PkM activities through the role of lecturers as keyboard players at GKI Hermon Hollo Him show how musical playing techniques can enrich the

congregation's worship experience. This contribution not only improves the quality of music, but also deepens the spiritual connection of the congregation with the spiritual songs being sung. The PkM activity by the Church Music Department at GKI Hermon Hollo Him with a keyboard player as part of Sunday worship succeeded in creating a more heart-touching worship atmosphere. The role of keyboard players shows the importance of music's contribution to church services, providing a deeper and more meaningful worship experience for the congregation.

The following is a description in table form for information about keyboard players in PkM activities:

Table 1.4 PkM Results via Keyboard Player

Aspect	Description
Keyboard Player	1 lecturer from the STAKPN Sentani Church Music Department
Keyboard Player Role	Leading and supporting all the songs sung by the congregation during Sunday services, setting the tempo, dynamics and harmony.
Preparation	Intensive practice by studying the song list, adjusting tempo and dynamics, and coordinating with song leaders and ensembles.
Implementation	The keyboard player plays supporting chords, ensures smooth transitions between songs, and creates harmonies to match the worship theme.
Contribution to Worship	Creating a solemn and deep atmosphere, helping the congregation follow each song smoothly, and enriching the worship experience.
Impact on the Congregation	Congregants feel more emotionally and spiritually connected with each song, deepening their worship experience.
Evaluation	Involves feedback from the congregation and church administrators to assess the effectiveness of keyboard playing and provide input for improvement.
Results and Benefits	PkM activities succeeded in improving the atmosphere of worship, showing the importance of music's contribution to church services, and providing a deeper worship experience for the congregation.

CONCLUSION

Community Service Activities (PkM) by the Church Music Department at GKI Hermon Hollo Him have significantly enriched the atmosphere of Sunday worship through various musical elements. The ensemble's musical performance, which combines keyboard, violin, flute and saxophone with a medley of Kidung Jemaat 387 and Papuan folk songs, creates a deep harmony that unites the congregation in a solemn spiritual atmosphere. The combination of spiritual and local music not only enriches the worship experience but

also celebrates cultural richness, making worship more heartfelt and meaningful.

The lecturer's soloist performance with the song "God Always Helps Me" as well as support from the keyboard player added a deep emotional and spiritual dimension to the worship. The soloist provides the congregation with an opportunity for introspection before confession, while the keyboard player enriches the musical experience with a subtle and dynamic touch. Song leaders from the Church Music Department also play a key role in leading the congregation, creating an

atmosphere of togetherness and ensuring every song is sung with high quality. So, this PkM activity shows how church music can deepen spiritual experiences and improve the overall atmosphere of worship at the GKI Hemon Hollo Him congregation.

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