



# creative church

Beat Rink

Creative Church is a project of [Crescendo International](http://www.crescendo.org) [www.crescendo.org](http://www.crescendo.org) - the ministry amongst classical and jazz musicians and other artists of CRU. We began with it in the late 1990's and was motivated by the fact that many Christian musicians and other artists wanted to invest their gifts in churches and worship services, but didn't find the right platform to do so.

Another motivational factor for this artistic church service was the realisation that people in the postmodern world are more interested in a [holistic experience of God](#), than merely word-centred teachings. [The arts play an increasing role](#) when it comes to reaching people with the gospel; churches are starting to discover this as well.

In the 1990's several projects were born. These included placing art in church services, such as the Willow Creek Sunday services or the "Thomas Mass" in Europe. Following this, Crescendo began approaching churches in the city of Basel that were interested in new forms of church services. The Swiss reformed church was especially interested and offered a beautiful old church building for hosting purposes of these events. "Kirche Kreativ" was established here as a type of institution over the last 25 years.

Through the work of Crescendo, this initiative started in other cities as well, such as Paris, Leipzig, Riga, Budapest, Dresden, and in other cities overseas. Creative church services were held in about 40 cities.

**KIRCHE KREATIV**  
IN DER  
PAULUSKIRCHE

**UNGLAUBLICH!**

PFR. DR. CHRISTOPH RAMSTEIN  
UND CRESCENDO JAZZ

SONNTAG, 23. Juni, 18.00

Die KIRCHE KREATIV ist eine Initiative der überkonfessionellen Bewegung CRESCENDO in Zusammenarbeit mit der ev.-ref. Kirche Basel Stadt und der Alban-Arbeit.

Diese Gottesdienste mit professionellen Künstlern oder Sportler finden seit über 20 Jahren während jährlich in Basel statt. Ein besonderer Gottesdienst, nicht nur für Kirchenbesucher\*innen, sondern für alle Menschen, die sich für Gottesdienst interessieren.

Pfr. Dr. Christoph Ramstein spricht in seiner Predigt anhand eines bewegenden Bildes von Gottesspiegeln, wie sie selbst zuweilen Menschen glücken können.

Plus d'informations: [www.kirche.ch](http://www.kirche.ch)

www.kirchebasel.ch

Logos: crescendo, KIRCHE KREATIV, KIRCHE KREATIV BASEL STADT, ALBAN, ARBEIT

**CULTE ARTISTIQUE**  
à  
**SAINT-FRANÇOIS**

2 DÉCEMBRE 2018, 18H

CULTE ARTISTIQUE  
AVEC LA CHANTEUSE  
FLAVIE CRISINEL

DIMANCHE 2 DÉCEMBRE, 18H - 19H00  
ÉGLISE SAINT-FRANÇOIS, LAUSANNE

Flavie Crisinel (chant)  
Louise Müller (clavier)  
Julia Naymond (chant)  
Johannes Schwarz (saxophone)  
Rita Tomerstein  
Ana Turakli (violoncelle)  
Daniel Feres (gitarre)  
Duo Margrethe (percussions)

Collaborant  
Jean-François Kramler  
pour l'ÉPIC, responsable de l'Église Saint-François

Plus d'informations:  
[www.cathed.ch](http://www.cathed.ch)  
[www.culteartistique.ch](http://www.culteartistique.ch)

Logos: crescendo, CRESCENDO, ÉPIC, KIRCHE KREATIV, KIRCHE KREATIV BASEL STADT, ALBAN, ARBEIT, RETHOUER, BERNARDINI, CAMPUS

**CULTE ARTISTIQUE**  
à  
**SAINT-FRANÇOIS**

1<sup>er</sup> DÉCEMBRE 2018, 18H

CULTE ARTISTIQUE  
AVEC LE PLASTICIEN  
IGNAZIO BETTUA

DIMANCHE 1<sup>er</sup> DÉCEMBRE, 18H - 19H00  
ÉGLISE SAINT-FRANÇOIS, LAUSANNE

Ekaterine Oroskouva (chant)  
Valentine Dubois (chant)  
Louise Normand (violon)  
Johannes Schwarz (saxophone)  
Rita Tomerstein  
Julia Naymond (chant)  
Duo Margrethe (percussions)

Collaborant  
Olivier Kramberger  
et Jean-François Kramler

Plus d'infos sur: [www.cathed.ch](http://www.cathed.ch)  
[www.culteartistique.ch](http://www.culteartistique.ch)  
[info@culteartistique.ch](mailto:info@culteartistique.ch)

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**KIRCHE KREATIV**  
IN DER  
PAULUSKIRCHE

**UPSIDE DOWN**

GOSPEL BLUES PROJECT  
PROF. BERND WANNENWETSCH  
(PREDIGT)  
MUSIKALISCHER SEGNETUNGSTEIL  
MIT CRESCENDO

SONNTAG, 28. April, 18.00

Die KIRCHE KREATIV ist eine Initiative der überkonfessionellen Bewegung CRESCENDO in Zusammenarbeit mit der ev.-ref. Kirche Basel Stadt und der Alban-Arbeit.

Diese Gottesdienste mit professionellen Künstlern oder Sportler finden seit über 20 Jahren während jährlich in Basel statt. Ein besonderer Gottesdienst, nicht nur für Kirchenbesucher\*innen, sondern für alle Menschen, die sich für Gottesdienst interessieren.

Upside Down ist der Name eines Songs des Gospel Blues Project, in dem der renommierte deutsche Theologielehrer Bernd Wannenhwetsch predigt, der auch predigen wird.

www.kirchebasel.ch

Logos: crescendo, CRESCENDO, ÉPIC, KIRCHE KREATIV, KIRCHE KREATIV BASEL STADT, ALBAN, ARBEIT, RETHOUER, BERNARDINI, CAMPUS

The **general structure** of the Creative Church is quite simple, and can be adapted as needed. It consists of three parts, each comprising of 20 - 30 minutes:

1. an artistic part,
2. a sermon,
3. and a prayer walk within the church building.

The program schedule may differ slightly from service to service and is easily changeable according special Church festivities and holidays, e.g. Pentecost and Easter.

Some examples of special church services with adapted programs:

- An actor reads text from the Bible (instead of a sermon) and musicians play intermediately (improvised music)
- A preacher interacts with artists by splitting up his / her sermon

Each service is centered around a specific topic for example "Unbelievable", "Come see", "Upside Down", "(Don't) Compare Yourself", "Be Honest", "Go!", "Phantasy-filled", "Called", etc.

A detailed schedule may look as follows:

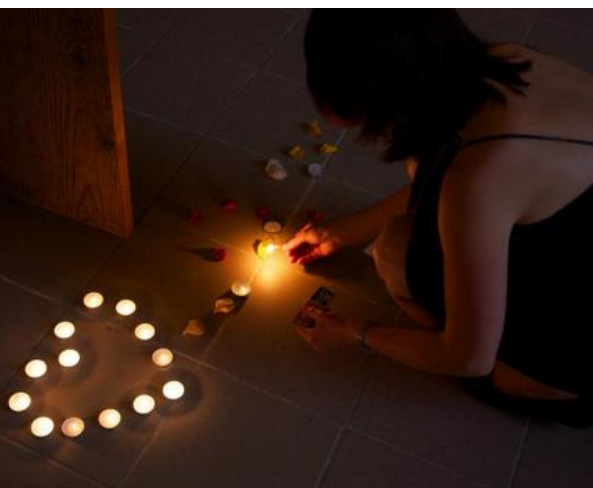
Time	What	Who
16:00	Set-up	
17:40	Prayer	
18:00	Opening Song	Crescendo
18:05	Welcome (Introduction and prayer)	Pastor / MC
	Musical intermezzo	Musician / classical guitar
18:10	Interview with the Artist	Beat Rink Eva (Visual artist)
18:25	Presentation of artwork	
18:30	Musical intermezzo	
18:35	Sermon	Guest preacher
18:55	Musical intermezzo	Musician / piano
19:00	Offering & Announcements	
19:05	Introduction into the Prayer-Walk; Installation of Holy Communion with a small liturgy (verses from 1.Cor. 11, 23ff)	Pastor
19:10	Prayer-Walk	Music: Crescendo
19:30	Closing Blessing Closing Hymn	Pastor



As explained in the chapter of the history, we are convinced that artists play an important role in the kingdom of God and it is important that they have a platform to use their gifts for the glory of God and for reaching people outside of traditional church services. Therefore, the Creative Church has a slightly different approach and concept compared to other churches and hence emphasizes public relations within a city, and **strives to be accessible and understandable to people outside of the church**. One can say that a low-key approach to the services is important. It is important to evaluate the “target audience”. The Creative church has the potential to reach intellectual people and leaders. Therefore the topic, the artistic contribution, the worship songs in the 3<sup>rd</sup> part and the sermon have to be well chosen.

One of the results of such services is that artists are making use of their gifts within churches and so are discovering these. Sometimes even non-Christian artists contribute to such a service. As a result, **churches are discovering the arts, and in turn are inspired by artists beyond the Creative Church**.

A broader spectrum of visitors is present at such Creative Church events as compared to “standard” Sunday morning services, especially unchurched people who have an interest in aesthetics and the arts.



# spiritual and artistic DNA

1. As already explained, the Creative Church has a **low-key approach**, in order to address unchurched people especially. **We avoid a language which cannot be understood by people outside of the church and Christian faith.**

2. Generally speaking, the Creative Church has an **interdenominational approach**. For instance, a specific church may be responsible for organizing a specific event, yet the majority of Creative Church services are organized by artists who belong to different churches in cooperation with Christians and Pastors from various denominations.

3. **Creative Church does not follow a denomination-specific theology.** A service reflects the approach of Crescendo (Cru): **Christ-centered messages, a friendly invitation to discover Christ and to follow him**, providing the opportunity to react to the sermon by **offering a prayer walk and intercession** at special prayer corners, as well as the Holy Communion (mostly an ordained Pastor is responsible for the distribution). We trust that the Holy Spirit is at work not only in the sermon but also during the artistic segments and the prayer walk. The prayer walk itself provides the opportunity for visitors to contemplate the cross or an artwork in silence.

4. The Creative Church includes **many different art forms**, most of which are part of the finer arts and classical / jazz music spectrum. Therefore, Creative Church aims to reach an audience that feels at home in such milieus, rather than people from the world of "hard rock". Involved artists are mostly art or music students, thus the Creative Church has a high regard for **professionalism**. We purposefully combine **different styles of music**, for example: in the first segment of the service there may be a classical music performance, and during the prayer time, jazz or classical musicians play worship songs. **Good artists build bridges not only between different denominations but also between various styles of church music.** The prayer walk is therefore accompanied by musicians (mostly classical or jazz or gospel, but not necessarily rock). Many classical musicians, especially those of the younger generation, are willing and eager to interpret modern worship songs on their instruments.

Non-professional artistic skills are welcome, for example in the preparation of the prayer corners - see explanation below.



5. The integration of arts within the service shapes the whole atmosphere. The services often mirror [the joy of being creative](#), the gift and blessing of beauty and the courage of daring new things. This draws [attention to out-of-the-box thinkers](#) and people who do not expect answers from the church any longer, but are open to experiencing artistic church services. It is of utmost importance, that the service is led by someone who can set the right tone for a joyful yet meaningful atmosphere. The visitors are invited to enjoy the beautiful art, to laugh, to applaud, but at the same time, to be open for a deep, life changing message about Jesus and to expect God's presence in their midst.

6. As previously explained, Crescendo is the main organiser of the services. This means that the label is owned by the Crescendo Ministry. In order to organise a Creative Church service, one is required to [obtain the permission from Crescendo](#). Crescendo currently cooperates with churches and pastors who back its concept fully. Teams that are involved in the preparation of a Creative Church service often consist of members from different churches. The following are examples of such [teams](#):

- [Prayer group](#), which meets once a month between Creative Church services, on Sunday evenings before the start of the service and offer intercession during the prayer walk
- [Public Relations Team](#)
- [Technical Team](#)
- [Organizational Team](#) which focuses on general organization and management, contacting artists, making room reservations, etc.
- [Décor-Team](#)
- [Literature Stand](#), where books pertaining to the topic of the service are sold
- [Worship Team](#)

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## Some links to Creative Church videos and sites:

[www.kirchekreativ.ch](http://www.kirchekreativ.ch)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5oyesUfm_Q&fbclid=IwAR3r0XAa4E5ij3pQwton3CbU6NzYvrwgDLBaTy5sQ-g_eeQc13rQ8W92zGU)

[v=B5oyesUfm\\_Q&fbclid=IwAR3r0XAa4E5ij3pQwton3CbU6NzYvrwgDLBaTy5sQ-g\\_eeQc13rQ8W92zGU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5oyesUfm_Q&fbclid=IwAR3r0XAa4E5ij3pQwton3CbU6NzYvrwgDLBaTy5sQ-g_eeQc13rQ8W92zGU)

<https://www.facebook.com/cultesartistiquescrescendo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfTJcYq3iGk&t=4s>

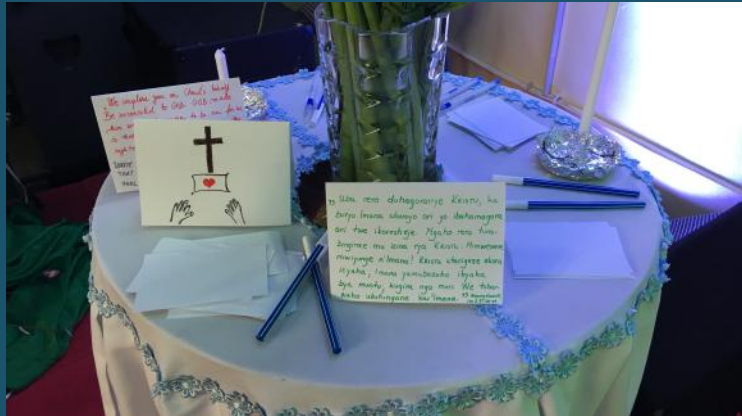
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7. As previously emphasized, the Creative Church has an interdenominational approach. Yet, the church buildings in which Creative Church services take place, belong to a specific church. This makes it all the more necessary to link up with the local congregation. In ideal conditions this cooperation brings forth huge benefits. For example, new visitors can automatically connect with the local pastor. This makes following up with these visitors much easier. Yet the Creative Church has the potential to reach people who are not interested in belonging to a specific church and to motivate Christians to bring along neighbours and friends who otherwise do not have contact to the Christian world. The aesthetic atmosphere in our venues is important to us. For this reason, we often choose old church buildings as the venue for our services.

8. 80% of the finances needed for a Creative Church service are covered by the collected offerings at said services. Other financial resources are given to the Creative Church by donators. Visitors are given evaluation forms on which they can indicate whether or not they would like to receive information about the Creative Church in future. They also have the option of becoming part of the growing circle of Creative-Church-friends, who support this initiative financially with a contribution of 30 Euros annually. Furthermore, some churches make specific financial contributions towards the PR, Technical support and salaries of Creative Church staff.

9. We stand behind the idea that churches should not make use of artists gifts free of charge as these artists are dependent on donations. Therefore, guest artists (not including the worship team) receive a specific honorary financial amount for their work.

# first Creative Church in Kigali - Rwanda



# prayer and blessing stations

During the last part of the church service, guests are invited to take part in a prayer-walk and to receive blessings. In the same time the worship team is singing songs - preferably on classical instruments or not highly amplified electronic instruments. It is very important that the sound is not too loud as people are coming for blessing stations and want to listen to the prayers. The atmosphere is more meditative. The music can also be just instrumental. People are invited to sing along if there are song sheets or powerpoint.

Guests are free to come to different stations which will be described below. These stations are in no way compulsory, they are merely an opportunity for guests to interact and experience God on a more personal level. Guests are not obligated to take part at all stations and may spend as much time as they need at each individual station.

1. **Holy Communion table.** The pastor(s) giving the bread and cup for people coming in a half circle.

2. **Cross** (for example made of wood): Pieces of paper are available for guest to write their prayers on and then paste these prayers on the cross. We have tried this approach in Kigali before, yet were to discover that many people there are not able to write. Guests are also welcome to make drawing or symbolically paste a piece of paper as a prayer onto the cross.

**3. Intercession and Blessing:** There are two or more of these stations spread out within the church. Guests have the opportunity to have someone pray on their behalf or to receive a blessing. These stations are recognizable either through candles or a beautiful picture / painting which are installed there. Staff / volunteers offering this service may wear a name tag so as to be recognizable to the guests. It is important, that this is not a place for counseling / spiritual welfare, but more a place for a quick change of words between the staff member / volunteer and guest, upon which the staff member / volunteer will pray for said guest.

**4. Table with Bible verses:** Here guest may choose a bible verse from a selection of bible verses printed or written on small cards. These may be taken home as a form of encouragement.


**5. Bowl of Water** with an image depicting how Jesus washes the feet of his disciples and maybe a text: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness". - 1. John 1, 9): Guests are invited to wash their hands whilst asking Jesus for forgiveness of their sins. The water is a symbol of cleansing through forgiveness of sin.

**6. Encountering Jesus:** Guests are offered the opportunity to have a conversation with Jesus. For this, two chairs are set up facing each other. Guests are encouraged to sit on the one chair whilst imagining Jesus sitting on the other chair facing them. Guests are encouraged to speak to Jesus, to listen to what he may possibly be saying to them personally.

7. **Question Station:** Here guests will find a large sheet of paper with a question pertaining to the theme of the church service. Guests are welcome to write down answers (pens are to be provided by staff members). Possible questions may be as follows: What do you want to tell / share with Jesus today?; Who do you want to pray for today?; In which situations of your life have you recently encountered Jesus?; What do you want to thank Jesus for?

8. **Token** as a reminder of the church service: Pertaining to the theme of the church service, guests are welcome to take with them a small object as a helpful reminder of the service and its core message. These tokens may be colorful stones, a small wooden cross, glass pebbles, etc. The message may be as follows: God wants what is best for you, so please take one of these colorful stones as a reminder.





Hopefully you are inspired for what lies ahead. We want to encourage you to involve people who are artistically talented in the set-up and design of the various stations.

Should you have any further questions, you may contact us at any time at the international office of Crescendo [office@crescendo.org](mailto:office@crescendo.org) / Rev. Beat Rink, leader Crescendo intl. / phone: +41 (0)79 422 58 81

