

# How To Arrange and Use A Song

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God has appointed each of us, as musical servants, to a specific group of people. Our goal is to see them grow as worshippers of God. Each time we lead them in worship, we want to see them encounter God themselves - make contact. God has given us music (psalms, hymns and spiritual songs) as a tool to help us in our calling.

As we use music/songs to help facilitate the worship of God we must do our best to direct the flow of the music to support what the Holy Spirit is doing among His people. This requires the spiritual element of being sensitive to the leading of God's Spirit and the natural element of being trained, skilled and prepared to facilitate things musically.

Before we can lead a group of people through a song, we must know how to get through the song ourselves. If we are leading with a team (singers/sound and media support/instrumentalists/signers/), the WL must first give attention to leading the Team and only then will we be effective in leading the congregation. There are endless possibilities of what God can do during a pre-written or spontaneous song. We need to be as prepared as we can be musically to move with, encourage, and express what God might want to do spiritually.

## I. Pick A Song, Any Song

### A. Four Main Components of a Song

- 1) Melody
- 2) Chordal Foundation
- 3) Rhythmic Foundation
- 4) Icing on the Cake
  - a) harmonies, counter melodies, solos, complimenting rhythms, etc

### B. Pick the song apart

- 1) Identify all possible divisions within the song: intro, verse, chorus, prechorus, bridge, solo section, possible vamps, endings

## II. Analyze Every Division and Consider the Following:

### A. How will the song begin?

- 1) Who will set the tempo?
- 2) When will instruments enter the song?
  - a) all at once, one at a time, a few at a time, etc.

### B. How will each division be covered vocally and instrumentally?

- 1) Consider the Four Main Song Components within each division
- 2) Determine vocal (BGV's, Choir) arrangements for each division
  - a) Unison/melody, harmonies, nothing, Oooo's, echoes
- 3) Arrange instrumentation for each division
  - a) What instruments are playing? What "parts" are they playing?
  - b) Identify what you want happening dynamically
  - c) What is the basic "groove" for each division?  
(Kick/bass pattern, half-time/full-time)
- 4) Try to Match Instrumentation, Sounds, Parts, Rhythms to Match the Musical Style of the Song
  - a) put aside personal style preferences in order to best "serve the song"
- 5) Experiment with Different Variations

- a) Switch Main Song Component responsibilities among the team
      - b) All Four Main Song Components don't have to be used in every division
    - C. How will each transition be made musically/instrumentally?
      - 1) What chord/chords will be used to lead into a particular division?
      - 2) How will the song end?
        - a) Who will direct the ending? - worship leader, drummer, piano player, etc.
      - 3) Will we go into the next song without stopping tempo?
- III. Using a Song in Worship
  - A. The Predetermination Method
    - 1) Predetermine song outline before service
    - 2) This requires communicating the complete song outline with transitions to the team prior to service.
      - a) Pros - everyone knows how the song will go and can make transitions smoothly
      - b) Cons - there is no flexibility once a song is started to change
    - 3) Example: intro, verse, chorus, verse, chorus, bridge, chorus, chorus, ending
  - B. The "Go With The Flow" Method
    - 1) Song outline is determined as the song is being used in a service
    - 2) This requires communication from the WL before each transition into a division of the song
    - 3) Time is taken before service to review how each transition will be made musically
    - 4) WL Cues and/or Signals must be decided upon and used to direct the team and ultimately the congregation
  - C. The "Combo" Method
    - 1) A melding together of the previous two methods
    - 2) Have a general song outline communicated to the team
    - 3) Be prepared to "go with the flow"
- IV. Following the Leading Of The Holy Spirit Through A Song
  - A. The Worship Leader
    - 1) The Holy Spirit Is The Worship Leader
      - a) Seek to be led by the Spirit instead of trying lead the Spirit
      - b) Trust and follow what's happening in your own heart
      - c) Be ready for God to bring new revelation or conviction to you through something in the song
      - d) Ask the Holy Spirit what to do
    - 2) Look to Spiritual Authority
      - a) What's going on with the pastor or person in charge? How are they responding to the song? - seek their input
      - b) How is the rest of the leadership responding?
    - 3) Check With Your Team
      - a) Are they getting into it?
      - b) Do they seem to be connecting with God?
    - 4) Be aware of what God is doing (or not doing) among the congregation

- a) Are they interacting with and responding to God?
- b) Is life and freedom being released? (Praise Bombs!)
- 5) When you hit a “pocket of anointing,” milk it!
  - a) “glory veins”

B. Worship Team

- 1) Watch and Pray
  - a) Watch - be aware of/listen to your team and watch your WL like a hawk!
  - b) Pray - keep your heart engaged in the Lord, pressing into Him as you minister
- 2) Seek to be lead by the Spirit
  - a) trust and follow what’s happening in your own heart
  - b) be ready for God to bring new revelation or conviction to you through something in the song
  - c) follow the promptings of the HS in submission to your WL
    - prophetic melodies, words, songs, rhythms
  - d) seek to interpret musically what God is doing spiritually
- 3) Direct your flow of worship through your WL
  - a) support the directives of your WL musically and spiritually