

W o r s h i p M u s i c M i n i s t r y

T R A I N I N G C O U R S E

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Communicating with a Worship Team

Our ability to communicate clearly, effects every aspect of ministry

- ◇ Musical
 - ◇ Arrangements
 - ◇ Flexibility in live settings
- ◇ Logistical
 - ◇ Scheduling
 - ◇ Sound system functionality
- ◇ Relational
 - ◇ Understanding peoples needs
 - ◇ Helping them feel supported
 - ◇ Conflict resolution
- ◇ Spiritual
 - ◇ If people feel they can easily understand us in other areas, they feel they can relate to us, and this makes them more receptive to spiritual ministry through us.
 - ◇ We must be able to articulate what it is we feel God is doing or saying.
- ◇ Direction & Purpose
 - ◇ We must be able to articulate where we are going and why.

General techniques

- ◇ Be open to input from others.
 - ◇ Don't just talk; listen to people as well.
 - ◇ Seek out the input of others.
- ◇ Be concise
 - ◇ Think about what the main point is, and make it very clear.
- ◇ Encourage your team to write things down in rehearsal

Verbal communication (related to music)

- ◇ Before the song, in rehearsal:
 - ◇ Rather than dragging the team through the song, consider telling them what you expect to do in the song.
 - ◇ Explain the form
 - ◇ What is the order of the verses , chorus, bridge, etc.
 - ◇ I always tell them that this is by best guess. They can't plan on this for certain and so they still need to watch me or the leader closely.
 - ◇ Ask individuals if they have any suggestions for the song.
 - ◇ If you regularly ask for input:
 - ◇ Then people will not feel bossed around
 - ◇ They will not feel the need to interrupt the rehearsal flow to insert their ideas.
 - ◇ You get to choose when they talk.
 - ◇ Your arrangements will improve due to more input.
- ◇ During the song
 - ◇ Some times in rehearsal I purposely do not tell them what is coming and expect them to just watch and follow me through it so they have more practice 'flowing'.

- ◇ Use verbal 'lead-ins'
 - ◇ Sing the words for the next section just before you get there.
 - ◇ Use a style that fits with the song
 - ◇ Consider lagging over into the next section and letting your backing vocalists carry it.
 - ◇ Say the words for the next section just before you get there.
 - ◇ Simply say, "Chorus", or, "Bridge", etc. This is generally less tasteful than the other two options.
- ◇ After the set
 - ◇ Let your musicians know how they did in your opinion
 - ◇ Be encouraging first
 - ◇ Also let them know what they could work on.
 - ◇ There are times when you might want to hold back on constructive criticism, but in general, our worshipers should be humble enough to handle criticism and should be desiring to grow.
 - ◇ Ask your musicians how they felt or what they thought about the set.

Written communication

- ◇ Always use clear chord charts (typed)
 - ◇ If you know you are going to change keys, type it out in the new key rather than expecting them to transpose on the fly; most people will play better when they can read it.
- ◇ Consider putting the form at the top of the chart to remind them of the typical order to play that song in.
 - ◇ I use the following abbreviations
 - V = Verse
 - C = Chorus
 - B = Bridge
 - T = Tag
 - Vamp = Vamp
 - I (or 'Intro') = Introduction
 - E (or 'End') = Ending
 - ◇ Ex: Intro, V, C, Vamp, V, C, B, Vamp, C, End
- ◇ If we are going to be doing an especially tricky set or it will be a long time between the rehearsal and the set, I may write out 'Set Notes'.
 - ◇ For each song, I'll make short notes to remind the team what might trip them up, and give it to them before the set.
 - ◇ Ex: 'God of Wonders'
 - ◇ Percussion & Ac Gtr start
 - ◇ Groove drops after 1st Chorus
 - ◇ EI Gtr solo after Bridge over Chorus chords
 - ◇ Bring it down of 'Precious Lord'
 - ◇ 1 bar of silence after 'You are holy'
 - ◇ 1 bar of drum solo
 - ◇ All drop on 'Am' into bridge
 - ◇ Hang on 'C' for 2 extra bars at end of song
 - ◇ Resolve to 'G'

Non-verbal body language

- ◇ Your ability to 'flow' and be spontaneous depends largely upon how well you can communicate what it is you want to do with out words.