

MAKING MUSIC IN WORSHIP

**NEXT TO THE WORD OF GOD,
THE NOBLE ART OF MUSIC
IS THE GREATEST TREASURE IN THE WORLD.**

MARTIN LUTHER

Music is a gift from God and the talents He has given us need to be used to the best of our ability. Excellence in worship music is what we need to strive for. This is not to make much of our abilities, but rather to give the best offering we can and to assist the congregation in doing the same.

Arranging songs to suit the instrumentation and ability of your team will help you make the most of the talents they offer. Arrangements also need to work for the congregation.

Avoid "over arranging" songs. This happens when sections of songs are too loud or melodies become unclear due to excessive harmonizing.

If you take your arrangements from recordings, you will likely have to alter various elements of the song to make it work for congregational singing. Remember that recordings are done to promote the skills of an individual artist. You may need to change the key, alter the number of repeated sections, standardize the melody, or eliminate prolonged musical interludes. This will make the song more accessible for a large group.

Using different musical groups together in blended worship is a great way to unite the music sections of your corps/church and provide different musical treatments of congregational songs. Re-arranging a song for different instrumentation can give energy to a familiar song. Try using different combinations of band, choir and worship team together.

Using a combination of traditional hymns and contemporary songs will allow a wide cross section of your congregation to worship in an area of comfort and familiarity, while also branching into new expressions of worship. Tying this music together can be done by finding common elements like theme, key or tempo.