

SAWORSHIP

MAGAZINE



April 2023

COME FOLLOW ME

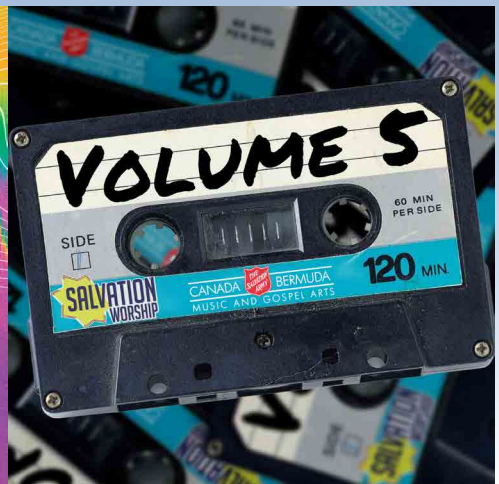
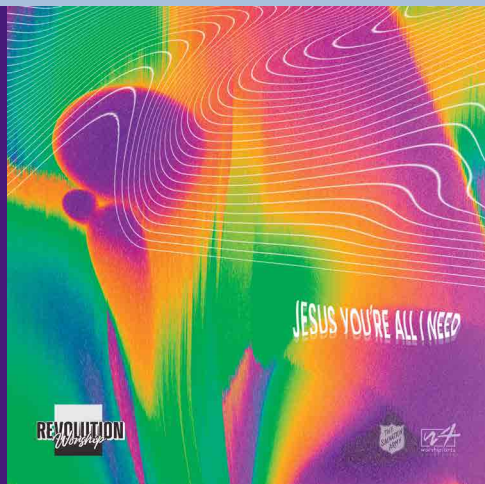
EXAMINING OUR CALL AS LEADERS



TO DISCIPLE THOSE IN OUR GROUPS



RIGHT TRACKS
MUSIC TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



ISSUE NO. 18

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Contact simon.gough@salvationarmy.ca

"Come, follow me"

It seems like an innocuous statement, but it got a few guys to leave everything including their homes and businesses, to go on the road with Jesus for a few years. How did such a small statement have such a profound effect?

I love that the Bible speaks to us today and that it is a historical text with context and meaning in the time that it was written. Today, we continue to use it to give us a greater understanding of its meaning.

In the Jewish education system, children would progress through "school" based on their learning. They would aspire to be asked by a Rabbi the equivalent statement of "Come, follow me." This was a learned member of the community essentially calling a student to become one of their disciples. Being chosen to be a disciple meant that you had proved continually that you were good enough to follow in their footsteps. The hope was that you would learn from the Rabbi, and then possibly carry on their teaching. It was a sign of an individual's value; that they were good enough.

But Jesus didn't ask the top performing students from the local school. Instead, he said, "Come, follow me" to local fishermen who were in their boats with their nets. If you were a fisherman, you had shown that you weren't necessarily the best student and had been sent back to learn the family business. You weren't chosen.

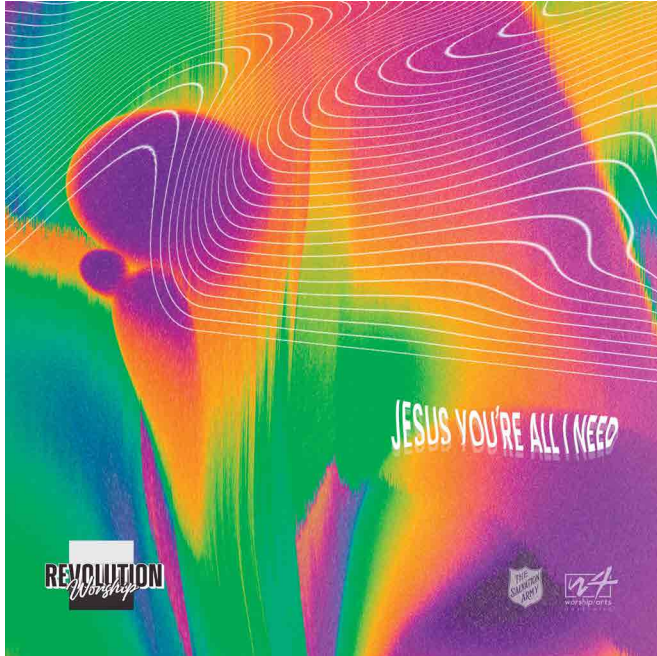
Jesus' actions show world values and sees not necessarily what God our hearts. He took men told by society that they enough, and with just a few them a purpose and a value world around them placed

again that what the as good enough is thinks. Jesus sees who had been weren't good words, he gave beyond what the upon them.

Jesus sees value and potential in you. There will be times when the world will make you feel that you aren't valuable, but the invitation from our Saviour who loves us is always, "Come, follow me."

Simon Gough

NEW MUSIC



JESUS, YOU'RE ALL I NEED

Revolution Worship dropped their newest track entitled *Jesus, You're All I Need* on April 14, 2023. Revolution Worship (Australia Territory) continue their trend of releasing songs that have fantastic content in a musical setting that is accessible and usable in corporate worship.



SALVATION WORSHIP VOLUME 5

Back in February, Volume 5 of Salvation Worship was released. The five new congregational songs include:

In the Secret of Thy Presence

More Like You

My Security

We Are the Church

You Are My Passion

All resources are available for free and can be found at www.salvationworship.com.





RIGHT TRACKS

MUSIC TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

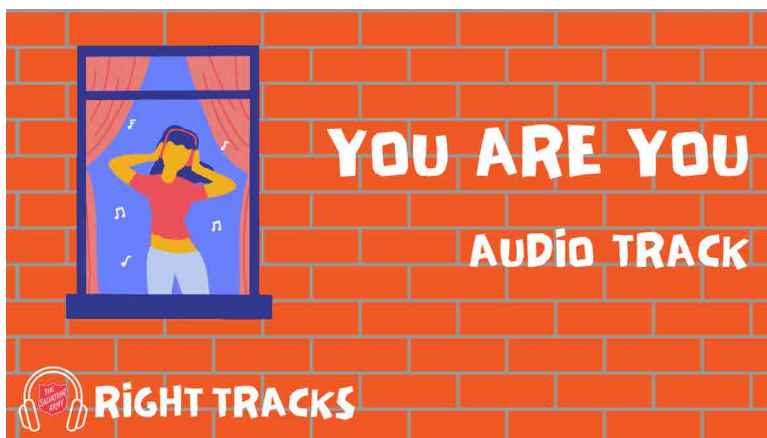
Back in Issue 17, we highlighted a project that was in the works from the Music and Creative Arts Team (UK & Republic of Ireland Territory) using contemporary music to engage “unchurched” children. Right Tracks is now available!

With 10 songs in the first volume focused on faith and values, each song is unique and explores a variety of musical styles with the hope that there is something there for everyone to enjoy. If you are involved in school ministry, kids clubs, Sunday School, or any other kind of children’s ministry, we suggest you take a look at Right Tracks on Spotify, YouTube, Apple Music, or visit this direct link:

www.salvationist.org.uk/right-tracks.



If you think that you have original pop-style children’s songs that express our faith or Salvation Army values in easy-to-understand language, the MACA team would love to from hear you. Reach out by emailing them at music@salvationarmy.org.uk.



Written by Dan Elson
Outreach Mission Partner Music and Creative Arts
United Kingdom and Ireland Territory



We Need Your Songs

SA Worship Magazine's Song Search is back again! We are looking for new songs to publish in Volumes 7 & 8 of Salvation Worship in 2024.

The goal of the Song Search is to provide Salvationist writers with an avenue to share their songs and have them published for congregational worship around the world. The Psalms exhort us to "sing to the Lord" and we want to encourage the singing of a "new song."

This new song comes from our new and vibrant experience with God each day.

We want to publish music that is suited to congregational worship. This means that songs should be congregation-friendly and filled with lyrics that express praise and worship to our God, and lyrics that teach us of His character and remind us of His goodness. We have seen several writers go back to the Salvation Army Song Book, finding ways to give new life musically to lyrics that are so rich and meaningful. We have equally been blessed by original songs that have been submitted.

Salvation Worship aims to produce high quality resources for corps with varying levels of musical support. Songs that are chosen for publication will be recorded and lyric videos will be produced. Published music for each song will be made available for all types of Salvation Army musicians and worship leaders to support their congregation.

To see and listen to the resources that are already available from previous volumes, please go to our website at www.salvationworship.com.

How Do I Enter My Song?

Step 1: Write your song. If you can notate your song, this is helpful. If not, send us chords and lyrics.

Step 2: Record your song. You don't need to go into a studio. You can use an app like Voice Memos. We want to be able to hear how it sounds.

Step 3: Send your song to Simon.Gough@salvationarmy.ca
by September 5, 2023

Also include:
Your full name
Contact information
Corps, division, territory
Lyrics arranged in the format of the song
Recording of your song
Lead sheet and/or chord chart (if possible)

After the deadline passes, we begin the adjudication process that evaluates the music and lyrics of each song. We provide feedback to writers to help them improve their craft. This process is completed by leaders in Salvation Army contemporary music from around the world. The adjudication process is blind in that no names are given to the adjudicators. Piano tracks are made of each song (melody and harmony) that provides a standardization and fairness, so each song is evaluated of its own merit.

Songs that are selected from the SAWM Song Search will be published in Salvation Worship in 2024. The resources that will be produced from selected songs include:

Lead Sheet
Chord Chart
Piano Chart

Lyric Video
Devotional Material
Multitrack Stems

Punch Brass
Brass Pads

All resources will be shared at www.salvationworship.com.

SAWM  **SONG**
SEARCH

Drama Ministry

Does it have a place?

Ever since I was young, I have loved performing. I did it everywhere, whether it was in church musicals, speech and drama *Eisteddfods*, dance concerts, or performances with my little brother for our parents. God has blessed me with many opportunities in this space. I have a deep passion for acting and performance and long to see it used for the Kingdom.

I also grew up seeing drama ministry used sporadically in the church. Don't get me wrong, I had some wonderful experiences and clear memories of how it was used, but its use has not always been consistent. As I get older, I have noticed a decline in the use of drama ministry. Perhaps this is not true in your setting, but it is an observation I have made for the contexts I have worked in. I don't think that decline indicates that drama ministry is any less powerful or helpful, but for one reason or another, we have shied away from using it. Maybe God has been calling us to other mediums, maybe we have lacked the human resources, maybe it feels foreign, and we don't know how to do it, or maybe we just thought it doesn't have a place.

I hope you don't mind my honesty, but if I can speak freely, the lack of examples and lack of people passionate and committed to drama ministries has discouraged me at times. It has also made me question where drama fits in the church.

Does drama ministry have a place at all?

Can it be used powerfully and effectively for the Kingdom? If so, how?

Is it still relevant in 2023?

I would be curious to hear your answers to these questions.

I have sat for a long time thinking through these questions. I certainly don't have all the answers, but here are some of my thoughts:

1. Firstly, I know that the Holy Spirit is just as powerful now as when Jesus was raised from the dead. God is the same yesterday, today and forever, right? (Hebrews 13:8) He can use my surrendered gifts in a mighty way for His Kingdom.

2. I don't believe it is an accident that God has given me or others a passion and love for performance. And I don't want the thing I love doing in life to be separate from God's Kingdom. I believe He gives gifts purposefully and to be used for His glory and honour. (Romans 12:6)

3. Drama is still relevant. We live in the age of Netflix, YouTube, and TikTok, where these companies are absolutely booming. What do they all include? Some sort of visual storytelling, often with acting involved. Take TikTok for example. Those who use this platform might have come across videos of people recreating sounds and mouthing the lines spoken in the audio. In essence, what are they doing? Acting!

We are constantly being impacted by the performance of actors. Our society learns through stories and visual media. Therefore, we know acting will still work for the people within the church, but perhaps more importantly, we have a language our world understands and is constantly using. We have an opportunity and responsibility to use this common “language” to spread hope, love, and the truth of Jesus!

So, I have concluded that:
While God is still powerful,
While God gives people a passion for performance,
While storytelling is still foundational in our world,
Acting and drama ministry are still relevant.

Although I have concluded that acting has a place in the Kingdom, sometimes I am not sure what it practically looks like. Even at the beginning of this year, I had some ideas but none of them felt right for this season. I continued praying that God would reveal to me His plans and His ideas. (Praise God, I sense He is beginning to unfurl those plans. Watch this space!) Working out the form that drama ministry takes is not always easy.

That is why we need to continue praying and seeking God and His guidance. Knowing He will lead us and guide us as He is the ultimate director.

It is why we need to continue to grow our skills, to ensure we have a range of tools in the toolkit, so when the time does come, we are ready and prepared. And so we can give our best to God and mirror His beauty. It is why as we continue to pray and grow our skills, we need to have the courage to start. It can feel overwhelming knowing where to start, but when we are seeking God first, we can trust He will lead us. We may not know the destination, but we will figure it out as we go along. What we do know is that we have a gift for the Kingdom that has too much potential to lay to the side anymore. Let's commit to starting somewhere and giving it a go.



So here are my encouragements for those of you who are actors:

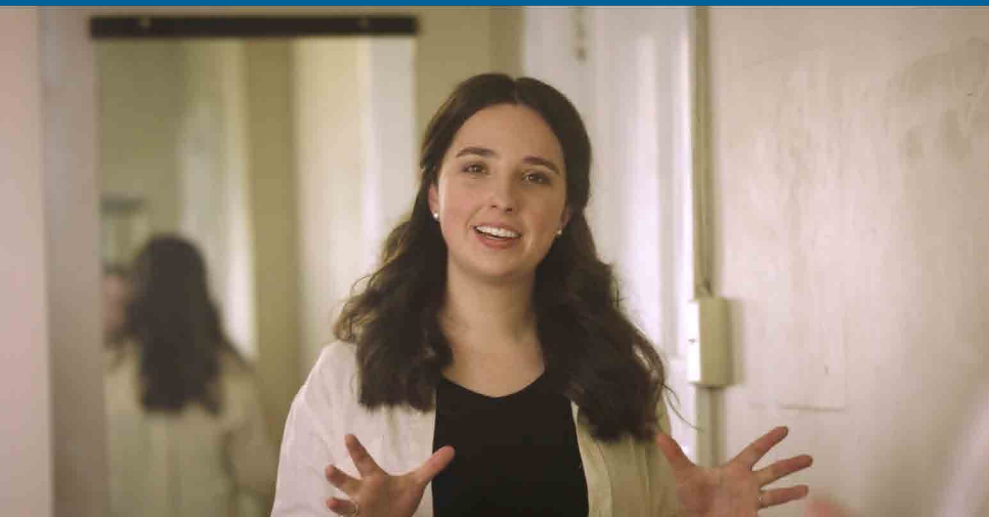
You have a place in the church. And we, the church, need you! The gift God has given you is not a waste or an accident. You have a unique ability that we need. Please spend time in God's presence then write, act, direct, and create.

For those of you who do not consider yourself an actor or performer:
Please pray for drama ministry, both as a whole and for individuals you know gifted in this area. There is enormous potential, waiting to be fully realized. I believe prayer is the foundation of many moves of God, so your prayer support would be an incredible blessing to us.

Secondly, please support and encourage us (the actors). Performing can be incredibly scary, intimidating, and often requires you to be vulnerable. Although we may not have it all figured out, and not every piece you see us perform will be mind blowing, please continue to speak encouragement over us and continue to support us.

My prayer for drama ministry is that the Holy Spirit would unlock its potential within our communities. I pray our performers would be people who pray and seek God's Kingdom first, and that they would surrender to the leading of the magnificent Holy Spirit. Out of the overflow of God's presence, I pray that they would create beautiful pieces that reflect and give glory to God. I pray God, the first and greatest Creator, would give us His wisdom and creative ideas as He leads, guides and directs us.

Actors, writers, directors, and all those involved in drama ministry - Now. Is. The. Time.
We need you. The world needs you.
So, let's act!



written by
Shushannah Anderson
Worship Arts Coordinator
NSW/ACT, Australia Territory

I am passionate about all things in drama ministry. If you would like to bounce an idea off of someone, share an exciting story about drama ministry, need someone to cheer you on or pray for you, or someone to partner with on a project, please reach out to me!

shushannah.anderson@salvationarmy.org.au

SO I SURRENDER

WHERE I HAVE TAKEN CONTROL

CAUSE YOU ARE GOOD

AND I WILL TELL MY SOUL

THAT IT IS WELL

I TRUST MY GOD IS GREAT

AND MIGHTY

KING FOREVER



You Are Holy

Revolution Worship

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a guitar amplifier's control panel. The image shows several black knobs with white markings for 'TREBLE', 'MIDDLE', and 'BASS'. Below the knobs, the words 'AMP TYPE', 'TREBLE', 'MIDDLE', 'BASS', 'FX SELECT', and 'FX LEVEL' are visible in white text. The background is a dark, textured surface, likely the amplifier's chassis, showing some electronic components. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on the knobs and text, and deep shadows elsewhere.

Going Ampless

The struggle is real for electric guitarists in church. How can I get good tone out of my amp so that my instrument sounds good without being so loud that other instruments must turn themselves up to be heard, or the amp is heard in the congregation? It's not just a problem in small buildings but is also common in larger church settings. Guitar amps are one of the top three contributors to excessive stage noise.

Why is stage noise a problem?

When the noise from the stage is equal or greater than the sound coming from the front of house speakers, we lose the ability to mix the entire group. What the congregation hears is not what we might intend for them to hear. Stage noise is beyond the control of your A/V team and should be addressed so that we can work toward creating an environment that doesn't distract the congregation from worship.

How can it be fixed?

The solution entails finding a way to allow guitarists to hear themselves with a nicely dialed in amp sound without having to crank up their amp. Ideally, guitarists will hear themselves through the monitors. There are some options that you can try out if you have a guitar amp that is too loud. You could try putting it in another room and mic it, or you could build an isolation cabinet around the amplifier. Now, there is an even better option that has been made available for a while which could solve your problem. The answer is not to use a traditional amplifier.



Companies like Boss, Strymon, Line 6, TC Electronic, NUX, and others are producing guitar pedals that are virtual amplifiers. These produced no stage noise besides what you have in the monitor mix, or none at all if you use ear monitors. They work with cabinet simulators or impulse response (IR) amps as well. They reproduce the sound of different, real-world amplifiers, and let you play digitally through them. There



are a lot of articles you could read online about this topic, and I encourage you to do so, but for the purpose of this article, I encourage you to ask yourself: Will the tone from a digital recreation of a tube amp going to replace the tone that you would achieve from the real thing? This is for you to decide. Maybe one day, it will. From the initial development of this concept of modelling amplifiers to the technology that is available now, it is clear to see that there has been a tremendous amount of progress in this area. There are banks of IR's that you can download onto one of these pedals that will do a fairly good job of getting your favourite amp into the device, and then getting your signal into the sound system.



Ultimately, our focus as worship team members and leaders is to make sure that whatever we do, our focus remains fixed on facilitating the interaction between God and His people. Reducing stage noise and continuing to improve not only our playing but the tone and quality of our instrument being heard is important. We want to add to worship and not distract our congregations. The focus should always be on God's life-changing power in the lives of those who worship as we play for them.



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**Music and
Creative Arts**

Not just leading the music

Across the Canada and Bermuda territory, there are examples of music leaders that have been a part of a particular corps for years and have provided leadership in some capacity for many of those years. Recently, it occurred to me that music and arts leaders are often a consistent presence in the lives of those in their groups. Because of this consistent presence, a corps music leader has a tremendous opportunity and responsibility to walk with their people on their discipleship journey.

We cannot ignore our mandate from the Great Commission to “go and make disciples.” Acts 1:8 tells us that we will be witnesses to the ends of the earth. In Matthew 4:19-20, Jesus invites us to follow him and then go and be “fishers of men.” As music leaders, we hope that our music and the message of our music draws all people into a closer relationship with Jesus. In addition, we should consider the people of our groups, the people already in our care. Are we helping them in their discipleship journey?

I will openly admit that when I started in music leadership at my corps while in my early twenties, I didn't think that discipleship was a big part of my “job description.” I only thought my job was to pick the music and conduct it. I attended that corps for 15 years and the reality is that I developed friendships with so many members of the corps through my consistent involvement in music leadership. It was through these friendships that many conversations about faith and the Christian journey would happen. I recognized there were many ways that I could encourage, teach, and learn alongside those who are walking the same discipleship journey as me. If you're anything like me, talking about faith, even with Christians, is sometimes hard when I feel I don't have the answers, or when there is a passage of Scripture that I just can't figure out. I have to remind myself consistently that, “The Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.” (Luke 12:12)



Can we walk a discipleship journey with someone as we walk through ours? Absolutely! For those who are under our care, they need us to do so. If we are all to have the wisdom, strength, and humility needed to minister in music, then we have to learn with each other, grow in our faith alongside each other, and hold each other up as we continue to live out our lives for Jesus.

I spoke earlier about the consistency that many music leaders provide in the fabric of their churches. It is through our commitment and consistency as music leaders that we can build friendships and relationships that allow us to walk in a deep faith with those around us.

So let's do it—full of belief, confident that we're presentable inside and out. Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:22-25 MSG)

written by Heather Osmond
Territorial Secretary for Music
and Gospel Arts
Canada and Bermuda Territory



3 *More things you need to be a better Worship Drummer*

In Issue 3, I shared my first article entitled *Three Things You Need to Be a Better Worship Drummer*. I shared fundamental tools to help you grow as a worship drummer. These tools were: an unshakeable groove, a team player attitude, and a worshipful headspace. If you haven't read it yet, I would encourage you to go back and check it out.

1 Play to the Room

What does it mean to play to the room? As musicians, we use the term the "room" to describe the general specifics of both the venue and the people. To help you in making creative decisions, you can use the following three steps: Assess, Consider, and Execute, or ACE if you want to abbreviate it.

To start, you will assess key elements such as location (size of the room, inside/outside), ambience (Sunday morning service, coffeehouse, concert), congregation (size, familiarity with repertoire, comfort level), and instrumentation (the size of your group).

Consider how these elements add context to your playing. How can your style of playing be adjusted to fit within the room and better support the worship experience? After considering key elements and considering how those elements add context to your playing, decide how you want to play your part to fit within the room and execute.

As you execute, look at the size and set up of your drums. For a small room with a small congregation, you may only need a 3-piece kit with hi-hats, a crash and a ride. If you are playing a worship concert for 300 people, you may want to use a full 5-piece kit with extra crash and a splash cymbal.

Examine the drumsticks you can use as these are an active element of your playing. Traditional wooden sticks are standard, however there are other types that you could use to add different textures. Multi-rod drumsticks, or hot rods, are a great option for a lighter touch. Other options include brushes, broomsticks, or mallets. Lastly, look at the simplicity or complexity of your grooves and fills. Are they serving the music, or are they distracting people from worship? Work together with your team and leader to figure out what works best for you and for the congregation.

2 Expand Your Dynamic Range

Have you ever been playing and engulfed in worship, enjoying the fellowship of your peers, and then you're asked to play quieter? Or asked to switch to hot rods? It's not always a great feeling. If you let it get to you, it can make you feel insecure about your dynamics. You may start to worry that your playing is a distraction more than a supportive tool. I've been there and it does get better! Let me tell you how.

For starters, you need to practice diligently because volume control is a learned skill. Start with what you are familiar with. Practice your rudiments at a soft, medium, and loud volume. Once you are comfortable with that, apply it to the drum set. Work on laying down and maintaining a consistent groove at a quiet volume. Feel the burn in your muscles as you fight the urge to hit the drums at full velocity. It may feel unnatural in the beginning, but the more you practice this, the more comfortable you will become. This should enable you to put together an arsenal of low volume grooves that you can comfortably play for the length of a song. When it comes to different options for low volume grooves, develop a solid cross stick sound. My recommendation is to hold the tip of the stick in your palm, about one inch from the rim of the drum, with the butt end of the stick on the rim between two tension rods. This is going to give you a precise and full sound every time. Take these grooves to rehearsal. Work on the quiet parts of songs with your team as these usually require the most work.

For drummers who tend to naturally play with a lighter touch, practice along with your favourite songs at home. Playing music that you are comfortable with will help boost your confidence. The music may call for you to play louder, and there is nothing wrong with that, if you can control the volume. My advice to you is this: When you are playing at a louder volume, keep it simple. Once you have a good handle on your dynamics, both loud and soft, use that to add shape and emotion to the music.



3 Embody the Lyrics

When learning new music, what elements of the song are you focusing on? Listening to the drum part will give you a lot of musical information that you need such as tempo, time signature, groove, form, and shape. However, the lyrics are equally important. Take time to listen to the lyrics of a song you are going to play. Learn the lyrics. It's crucial as worship musicians. While secular musicians are performing for an audience of hundreds, we play for an audience of one. This is what differentiates us as faith-based musicians. For myself, I have found that what helps me is to sing along as I am playing. I talked about this a little bit in my first article with respect to being in a worshipful headspace. This practice is going to connect your playing to the act of worship. I truly believe this is an important element to worship drumming. It directly relates to my next point which is that stage presence matters, even in worship. If your church records a livestream, go back and watch it. Specifically, watch yourself and the rest of the team as you play through a song or a worship set. What does your body language convey? Look at yourself through the lens of the congregation. Does your body language and attitude invite them into a space of worship? Or does it put up a barrier between you on the stage and the congregation down below? Consider how you can show the congregation what worship means to you. First, you need to be able to define worship in your own words, and you need to know what worship means to you. From there, let your body language reflect those thoughts as you lead the congregation into worship.

While there are many elements to being a worship drummer, the six that I have covered here are going to give you the tools you need to provide an impactful worship experience for the congregation, your worship team, and yourself.

Written by
Jake Wiseman



REVOLUTION WORSHIP GOES ACOUSTIC



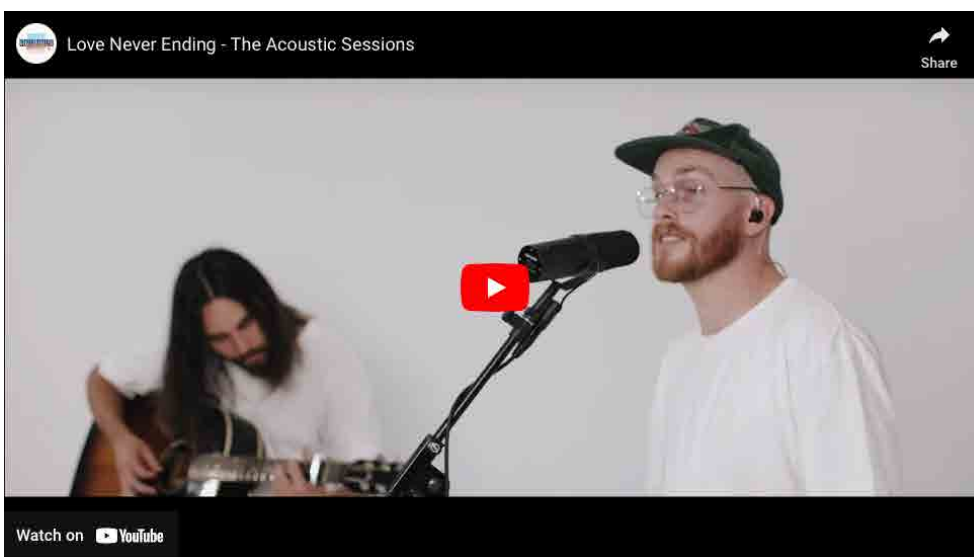
Revolution Worship (Australia Territory) have released four singles in the last 18 months. They have just released stripped back acoustic arrangements and videos of these new songs.

When speaking about the available videos, Dan Casey said:

“THESE WILL BE RELEASED AS RESOURCES THAT AIM TO PROVIDE WORSHIP MOMENTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND CAN BE USED AS EXAMPLES OF HOW TO BEST USE OUR MUSIC WHEN YOU DON’T HAVE A FULL BAND.”

Revolution Worship’s tracks have been recorded and released with a studio production feel that has allowed them to be featured on Christian music charts and radio in Australia. With these new videos and recordings that have stripped back some of the production elements, we can hear with just piano, acoustic guitar, and voice the beautiful writing and how these songs can translate to any congregation.

To find any of the resources available from Revolution Worship, including these new acoustic versions, please visit <https://my.salvos.org.au/.../resources/revolution-worship/>.



You can also find Revolution Worship on all major streaming platforms.

TO SUBSCRIBE, CLICK THIS LINK

<http://eepurl.com/dN845D>



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