

# SONGWRITER'S CORNER

AN INTERVIEW WITH NIGEL BRIGGS

**As a worship leader and songwriter, what so you think makes a music style, or a worship song, "accessible" to a congregation?**

What is accessible for some people isn't accessible for others. It is the responsibility of the worship leader in a church to try to interpret what is appropriate to their specific congregation. When I took over the worship at the Trent Vineyard, John (our pastor) and I, who are both 'rockers' at heart, made the decision that the worship should be up-tempo and fairly contemporary in style. We realized that this is what the Church wanted, as well. However, elsewhere, a different musical style may be appropriate.

If a song is good it will withstand various arrangements, from acoustic arrangement to full-on arrangement. There are a lot of great songs out there, which are essentially very easy and simple. Yet the arrangement can bring a distinctive life to that song. As a worship leader, it is really important for me to be able to say, "I really like this song acoustically."

In terms of songwriting, it's about keeping a song simple without it being simplistic. In the Vineyard movement we do not seek to replicate songs from a recording, but to interpret them in a way that is appropriate to a given situation. This depends on resources, musical ability and the needs of the congregation. It is this process that helps to make the song accessible.

## bold's fold




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# I NEED SOME CRUNCH!



Session guitarist Tony Lind, who has played on Vineyard Music Canada recordings, answers a question on finding a pedal with great "crunch."

**I'm looking for a heavier distortion pedal with "crunch" for my setup. I currently use an American Strat through a TS9. Any suggestions?**

I also have a TS9, which is a great pedal. What I use for thicker sounds is a Rat pedal (made by ProCo). It is a popular pedal used by many pros, and is quite diverse. You can dial in very little drive, or push it to a massive sound -- and get everything in between. There are a few models of these. I suggest the original (which has been re-issued), or the Rat II (that's the one I use). I've read great reviews on the Dunlop Double Distortion pedal. I'm interested in checking them out for myself. With this pedal you get two selectable channels on it.

Another all in one pedal is the Line 6 Distortion Modeler. I've used that in the studio. It has models of the TS9, Rat, and tons of other pedals. And you get to program four of your favorites to access. Another pedal that has been around for a long time, which seems to be a classic, is the Boss DS-1 Distortion pedal. A good place to check out some reviews is **www.harmony-central.com.** Go to the reviews section and select "effects." You can search through a database of nearly every manufacturer out there for users reviews (I don't agree with everyone's preferences, but you'll get some feedback).