Chapter 1: Preparation

In December of 2005, I was living and working in Dallas, Texas. One morning, I got a call from a Nashville area code, which seldom happens when you live in Dallas, so I decided to let it go to voicemail since I didn't know who was calling. I listened to the message and was so surprised that the manager of Nichole Nordeman sought me out. She was looking for a drummer to join Nicole on tour for 48 dates in the Spring of 2006. As a sideman in Dallas, my jaw hit the floor and felt deeply honored that I was asked, especially because I loved Nichole Nordeman's music and had all her CDs.

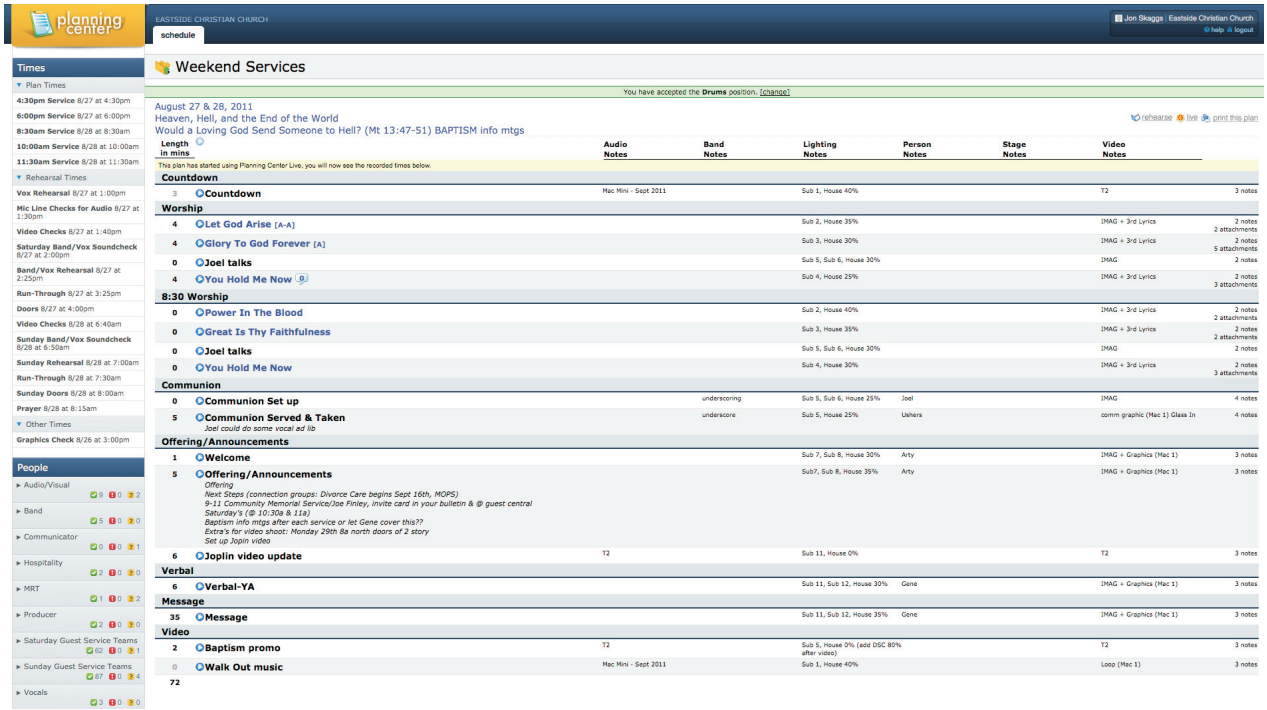
Upon accepting the tour offer, Nichole's manager said that she would be sending me songs that may be in the tour set. As soon as I received the list, I studied the songs, locked in their respective tempos, and did my best to memorize them as much as possible. When the tour rehearsal dates approached, the bass player and I decided to get together and play along to the tracks on the CD, so we could be uniform on all the parts, breaks, and patterns before the rehearsal. This proved to be very productive and helpful in preparing for the tour. When I arrived at the first rehearsal I was surprised that Nichole wanted to change the arrangements to fit a more acoustic set, instead of the more aggressive electric tone of how her current record sounded at the time.

We rolled through the songs one by one at a fast pace. Even with the arrangement and dynamic changes, we still played the songs at an accelerated rate. Nichole was very pleased with how everything went and decided not to go on with the planned extra day of rehearsal. It seemed that our individual rehearsal time paid off in a very big way. We had a very excited artist who couldn’t wait to play her songs in a new and fresh way. This was very gratifying to me as well, that I respected her and everyone else’s time by preparing for the set of songs in advance. Thus, everyone had an extra day to spend with their families, rest and pack before hitting the road. Preparedness definitely pays off!

Preparation comes first when I receive a request to play with an artist or for a worship service. With the assurance and confidence of the worship leader/bandleader, I will be fully prepared even on long or short notice. I owe it to myself and my career to be prepared, as well to the person who hired me and to the audience. When emails no longer arrive or the phone stops ringing, then that

is how much a bandleader/worship leader values preparedness as well.

Have you experienced being hired or asked to volunteer your time and talents for a worship service or performance? You, like myself, might have a smart phone or a device that you carry around at all times to access your email or stay connected with the world. So it's safe to say a bandleader or worship leader will contact you via email with a planning center availability request or through a simple text asking if you are around for the weekend. Whatever mode, email or text, you will receive it almost immediately. In this particular scenario, if you are available and looking forward to volunteering your time, your reply to the email is a resounding Yes, or an emphatic 'Yes!' via a text message.



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Below are some points to help you prepare for a performance. These are basically the ways I prepare for any performance or worship service that I play.

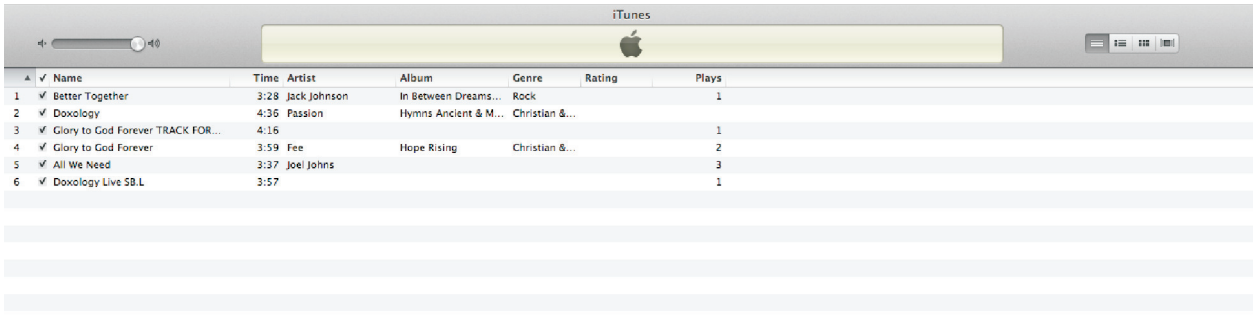
Gathering: I go about gathering as much information as possible about the service or gig. How many songs? Is there already a set list? Are there MP3s and charts available?

Gathering this information is essentially my guide of how much preparation

I have to do for the service or performance. You will have either a lot or very little information. I have definitely had both at one time or another. We are all musicians; so how organized do you possibly expect to be? Nonetheless, spend as much time as possible on gathering the information first. It will help you on scheduling how much "prep" time you need, in terms of days, prior to your service or performance.

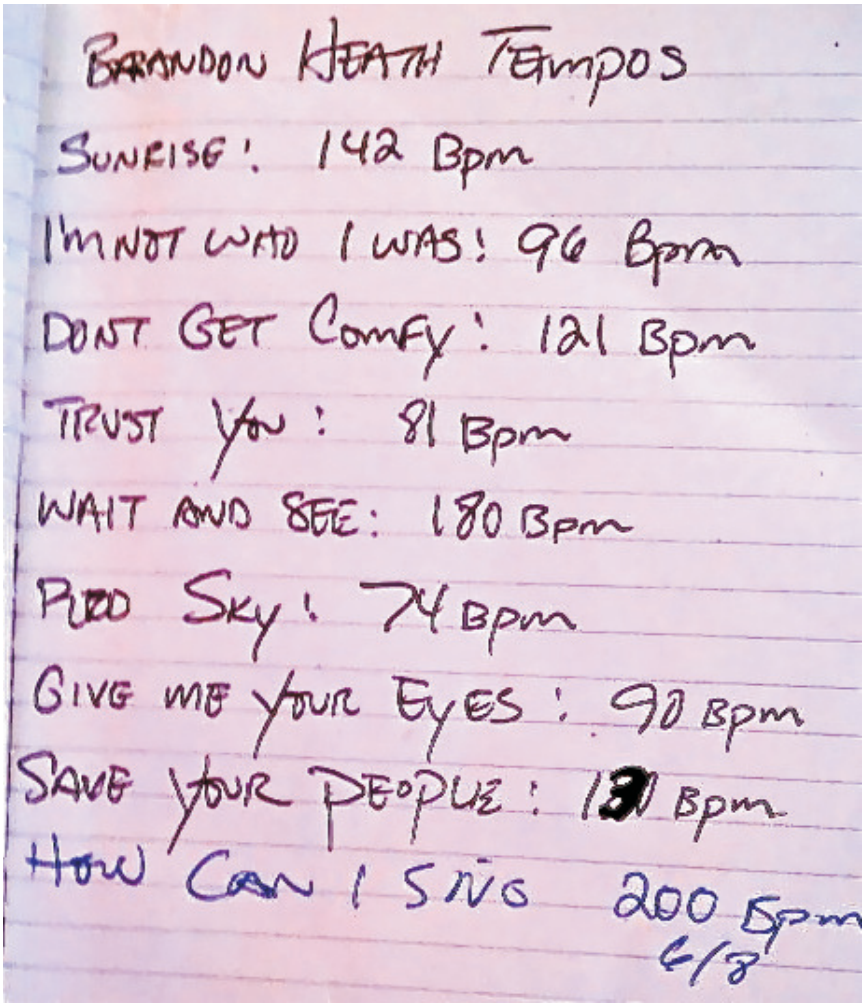
Organization: After gathering, I spend a little time organizing the information. For many of us in the music industry, organization does not happen naturally. I had to "learn" this skill and it really paid off for me. For instance, finding out a set list was a huge time saver. It helped me memorize songs; lock in and program tempos on a metronome; program tracks or loops; feel the dynamics of a set and find the grooves or percussive instruments to use, and charting the songs. All these will be a huge factor in saving time for your rehearsals.

You will not always have everything you need, and not every situation will always be optimal. This organization process will simply help you see what you have to work with and do your best with what you have gathered. Keep in mind that set lists have a habit of changing. So always keep a bit of "Murphy's Law" in mind while organizing your information. The best thing to do is forge ahead with what you have to work with. Be aware that changes may happen, and be flexible, and have a good attitude at all times!



	✓	Name	Time	Artist	Album	Genre	Rating	Plays
1	✓	Better Together	3:28	Jack Johnson	In Between Dreams...	Rock		1
2	✓	Doxology	4:36	Passion	Hymns Ancient & M...	Christian &...		
3	✓	Glory to God Forever TRACK FOR...	4:16					1
4	✓	Glory to God Forever	3:59	Fee	Hope Rising	Christian &...		2
5	✓	All We Need	3:37	Joel Johns				3
6	✓	Doxology Live SB.L	3:57					1

iTunes Set List



Brandon Heath Set List