



WHITEBOARD WORSHIP TRAINING MASTER CLASS

12 TIPS ON HOW TO MEMORIZE YOUR MUSIC

with host dan wilt and special guest, ryan dahl

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INTRODUCING SPECIAL GUEST... Ryan Dahl

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12 TIPS ON HOW TO MEMORIZE YOUR MUSIC

Does your band ever lead worship without music?

How do you make that happen? Imagine a stage without music stands, and musicians confidently playing their parts without have their gaze confined to the music!

Let's look at 12 practical tips that can help you and your musicians to memorize music, or at least be able to get beyond staring intensely at a music stand through a worship set.



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TIP #1 - Arrange Songs So Visual Patterns Emerge

You could create chord chart like the following, using the Nashville Number System or written chords:

123412
34123

Or, you could alternately write it like this:

1234
1234
123

Your musicians will realize they only need to know 1234, and then repeat it. The way you wrote the chords helped them to see the pattern.



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TIP #2 - Music Is A Magnet - Move It

Some musicians, especially vocalists, rely on music that is not necessary for them.

Once the music is known and the lyrics are familiar, you can move the chart.



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TIP #3 - Use Minimized Versions Of Charts

It can be a great idea to not put all the music on the stand. Rather, put highlighted words, or just cue words in front of your musicians.

Sometimes, you need just a few words to trigger the entire lyric of a verse or chorus. If the words are not there, you don't have anything to look at.



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TIP #4 - Practice Without The Music

If you practice without the music, you have the freedom to make mistakes.

Tell everyone “Hey – we’re going to do this song once with the music, and the next time, we’re putting the music down.”

Once they try it, they’ll get used to the new experience.



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TIP #5 - Learn Less Songs

If your repertoire is 150 songs, and you are constantly pulling songs out of the hat that haven't been used for years, or you are constantly introducing new songs to be performed live in 3 days – it is going to be hard to memorize music.

Trim down your list and really commit yourself to some great songs.



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TIP #6 - Simplify Your Arrangements

If your band is not at the level to do complex arrangements without having the music in front of them, then simplify the chords, so they are easier to memorize.

Simplified arrangements aid memorization.



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TIP #7 - Video The Band

Video the band, and then show it to them, so that they can see what they look like when they are staring at a music stand.

Then, they will be motivated to change.



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TIP #8 - Commit To Learning Progressions

Commit to learning PROGRESSIONS, and not just SONGS.

Understand that 50 songs may only use 8 different progressions, with some minor variations. So, you don't really have to learn 50 songs.

You just need to learn the progressions. Then, apply those progressions to the songs.

Practice playing progressions with your band, rather than just songs.



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TIP #9 - Pick One Song To Do Without Music

Try picking ONE song from your set to do without the music. It doesn't have to be all or nothing.

Take baby steps – there is nothing wrong with going slowly until the ability to disconnect from the music is learned.

When the band experiences the freedom with ONE SONG – they will want more.



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TIP #10 - Feel The Music, Feel The Groove

When you don't have music in front of you, it can be so much easier to FEEL the music, FEEL the groove, FEEL the message, and FEEL the Spirit.

Emotions can start to sway the band as you play without music, and it all becomes alive and living.



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TIP #11 - Train For Spontaneity

A great benefit of memorizing music is that you have the ability to be more spontaneous in a live setting.

The best kind of spontaneity is when you are PREPARED to be spontaneous. When a band is trained to go “on the fly” into a song, you are all more comfortable with the spontaneous moments that may demand it.



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TIP #12 - Remove Unnecessary Clutter

If you can totally go without music, there are tremendous benefits to clearing the clutter from the stage.

A nice clean look without music stands or pieces of paper looks amazing. It enhances a sense of community between the stage and the congregation.

A music stand can, at times, be like a barrier.



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