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3 Reasons To Write Worship Songs With People Inside Your Church

As you start to write worship songs for your church, you would be wise to make co-writing a regular part of your songwriting process. One decision I made early as a songwriter is that I wanted to find songwriting collaborators and not try to tackle writing worship songs completely on my own. This has helped form new friendships, allowed me to discover new creative opportunities and given me the chance to cheer on other songwriters.

When you are thinking of the kinds of people you'd like to start writing songs with, don't jump in too early. Songwriting is a delicate process and even strong friendships can be damaged by a songwriting session gone bad. Co-writing can definitely be beneficial and one of the best places to start is by writing worship songs with other people inside your own church.

Listen very closely – don't jump too quickly into a songwriting relationship because there are all kinds of stories of friendships which did not survive but don't be scared of pursuing this as an option. Co-writing is not for everybody and there are lots of great worship songs which are written by individual songwriters.

If your hope is to write songs which speak directly to your congregation, here are three reasons why you should consider co-writing with people from your own church -

01 They know you
Don't underestimate the power of relationship. Writing songs with strangers or new friends can be exciting and energizing but there is something special about writing songs with people you know. You share common experiences, common struggles and if you're part of the same church you share a unique history as members of the same congregation.

Coming at a topic or a theme for a song from the perspective of relationship could be a real unique advantage for your songwriting and may give you a headstart as you write worship songs for your church.

02 They know your congregation
The most direct opportunity for singing new worship songs will be within your own congregation and by co-writing with another member of your church you won't have to go through any kind of education process on the past, present, future of your church's congregation.

There are definitely songs which speak to universal issues for any follower of Christ and these are the songs which go global and can be sung in any church around the world. But as you write worship songs for your own congregation, remember that there are songs which will only be able to come from within your own congregation – some of those global songs just won't capture the right words that your church needs to sing.

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03 They know your pastor
Remember that your relationship with your pastor is more important than whether or not one of your songs gets sung in your church. As you bring creative ideas or direction to the table for a particular song, someone from your church may be a great source of wisdom when it comes to encouraging you to purse a specific idea or to look for an alternative. Consider them your first line of defense when it comes to ideas which may be pushing the envelope.

At the same time, if you are writing a song with someone from your church and come up with a lyric which may get some resistance, you can approach your pastor together with some of your reasoning behind a particular word choice. Having someone from your church as part of the process creates trust all around.

Three reasons to write worship songs with people inside your church: they know you, they know your congregation, they know your pastor.

Next up: three reasons to write worship songs with people outside your church.

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3 Reasons To Write Worship Songs With People Outside Your Church

The previous chapter in this ebook focused on helping you to write worship songs focused on co-writing with people from your own church. What about co-writing with people outside your church when it comes to writing worship songs?

I'll give the same caution I gave in the previous chapter – choose wisely when it comes to co-writing relationships but don't be afraid of pursuing this. If you have a dream to write worship songs for your own church, here are three reasons to write with people from outside your church -

01 Fresh perspective
Whatever is happening in your own church it's good to remember that God is alive and at work in every other church around the world. Getting together with a friend and beginning to write worship songs together gives you a chance to hear about what's happening in their own church, giving you a new perspective on what God is like and what the church is called to.

They will also help give you a fresh perspective on what's happening at your own church. As you talk about things happening in your own congregation and why writing worship songs for your church is part of your journey, they'll be able to encourage you along in the process. Fresh perspective can be very helpful!

02 Expand your network
Let's assume that the co-writing session goes well and you actually manage to put together some different ideas which are eventually turned into a worship song that your church is able to sing. This is a win! You'll both feel great about the experience and begin to build a new level of trust – you will be more willing to recommend them as a songwriter to other people looking to co-write and they will do the same. You'll be introduced to people in your co-writer's network who you didn't know before.

Even if the process doesn't go well and you struggle through a songwriting session with no tangible ideas when you come out the other side, good songwriters will recognize times when it was just a bad fit and they may know some other writers you should reach out to. I can think of times when I've gone to a co-writing session and although we didn't manage to put a song together we each knew songwriters the other should get to know and have a chance to write with. That's a win!

03 Shared ownership
I'm not talking about copyright (although that should definitely come up and we'll talk about that later in this ebook) but a co-written song immediately has twice as many champions than a song written by a single writer. If you are both worship leaders at local churches, that means there are now two churches where the song can be tried out. It's not *my song* anymore, it's *our song* – and when it comes to writing worship songs, that's a big distinction.

Writing worship songs with people from outside your church gives you increased ownership of the song and its success when it is released as a finished product.

Three reasons you should write worship songs with people from outside your church: fresh perspective, to expand your network and shared ownership.

Next up: where do you start – lyrics or melody?