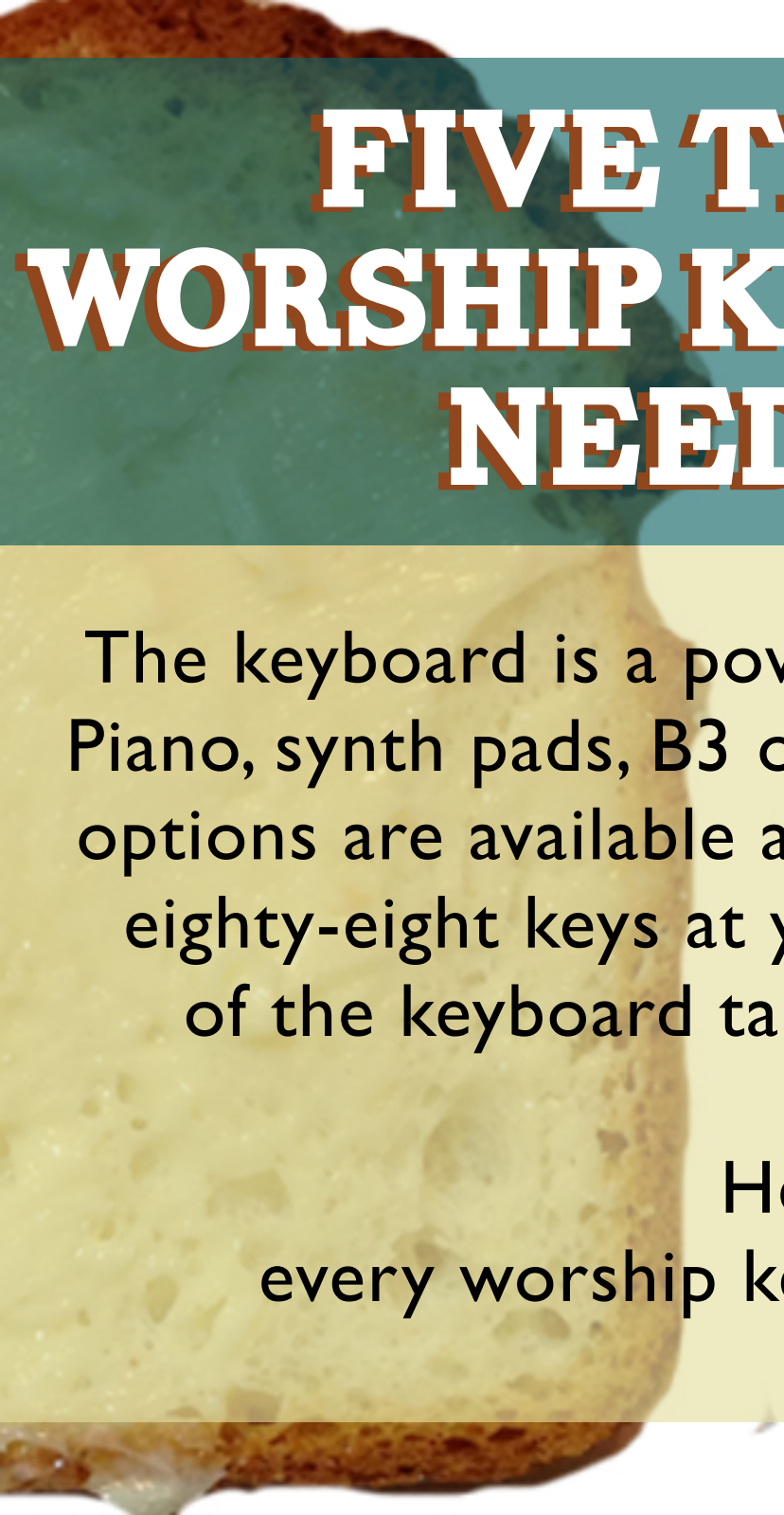


FIVE THINGS EVERY WORSHIP KEYBOARD PLAYER NEEDS TO KNOW

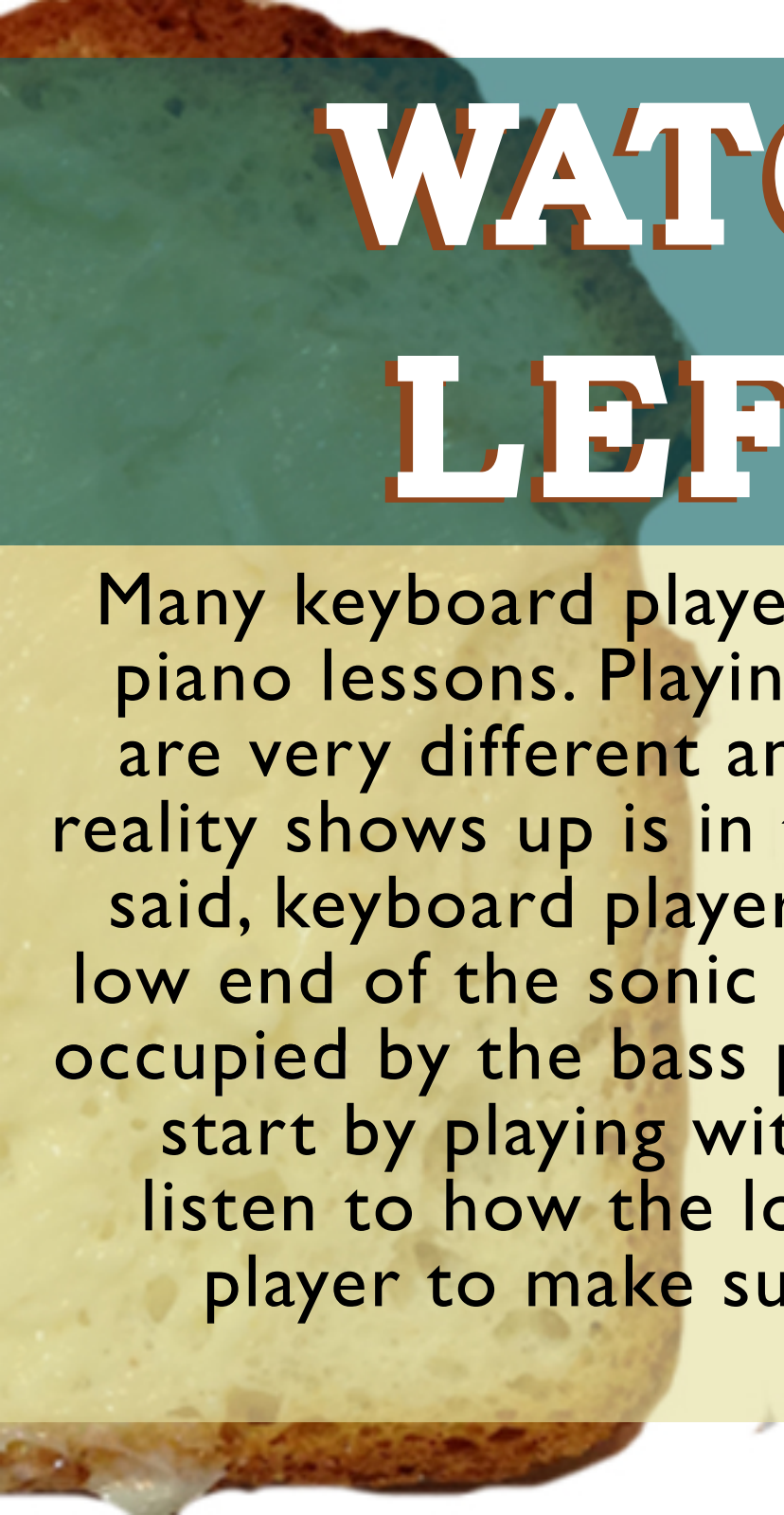
| CASEY CORUM |



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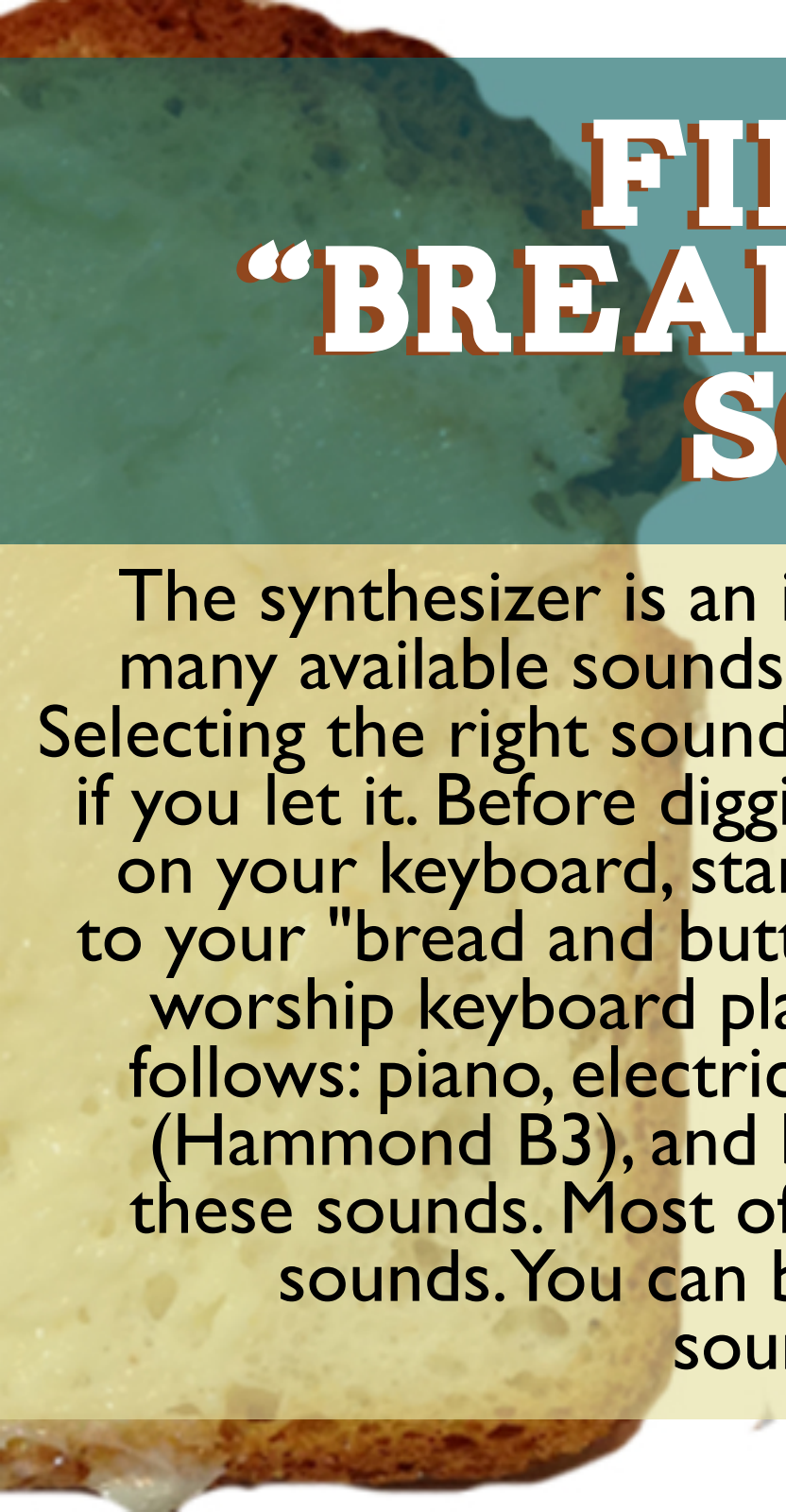
The keyboard is a powerful and varied music instrument. Piano, synth pads, B3 organ, electric piano and many more options are available at the touch of a button. With up to eighty-eight keys at your fingertips, the sonic potential of the keyboard takes up a lot of music bandwidth.

Here are 5 things
every worship keyboard player needs to know:



WATCH YOUR LEFT HAND

Many keyboard players started playing by taking formal piano lessons. Playing solo piano and playing in a band are very different animals. One of the first places this reality shows up is in the lower register. More specifically said, keyboard players can inadvertantly clutter up the low end of the sonic range that is primarily meant to be occupied by the bass player. To help remedy this situation start by playing without your left hand entirely and listen to how the low end clears up. Work with bass player to make sure you aren't stepping on their musical toes.



FIND YOUR "BREAD & BUTTER" SOUNDS

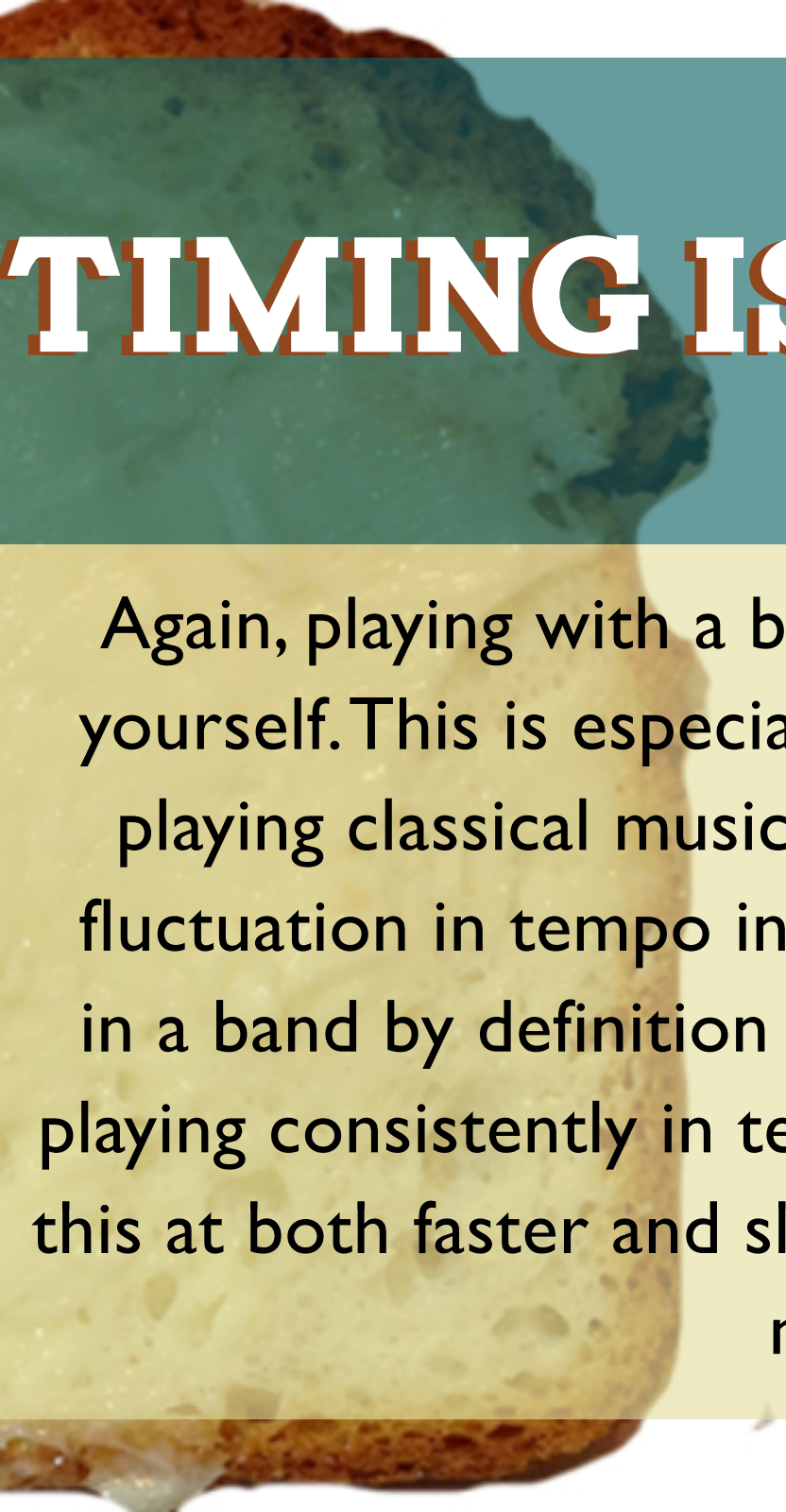
The synthesizer is an incredible creative tool. There are so many available sounds and textures from which to choose. Selecting the right sound can become an overwhelming process if you let it. Before digging into the myriad of sounds available on your keyboard, start by finding and creating easy access to your "bread and butter" sounds. The basic sounds that any worship keyboard player should have at the ready are as follows: piano, electric piano (Rhodes or Wurlitzer), organ (Hammond B3), and basic synth pad. Make it easy to find these sounds. Most of the time, these will be your "go to" sounds. You can branch out from here but these sounds are home base.



MIND THE MIDDLE

[MID RANGE]

Simply said, make friends with the electric guitarist. The keyboard and electric guitar will generally occupy similar sonic range. Discuss things song by song with the electric guitarist and choose to complementary parts. If they go high, maybe you stay low and vice versa. A double piano and electric guitar motif can be nice as well. Be intentional. Keep the communication lines open and defer to one another.



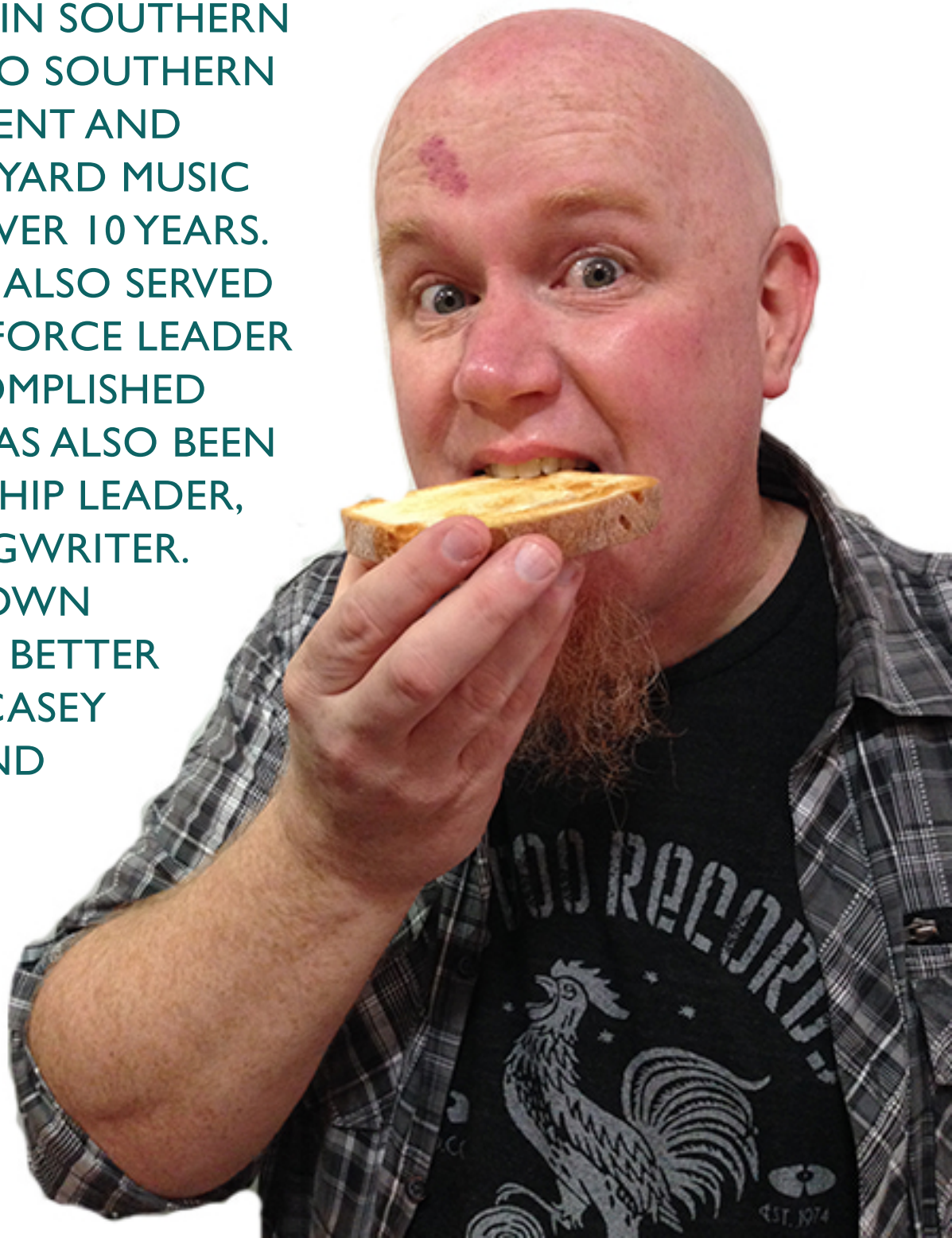
TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Again, playing with a band is very different than playing by yourself. This is especially true if you have been brought up playing classical music. You may be used to a much wider fluctuation in tempo in the pieces you typically play. Playing in a band by definition means playing together. Get used to playing consistently in tempo. Practice with a metronome. Try this at both faster and slower tempos with varying degrees of musical density.

STUDY ALTERNATE TECHNIQUES

As we've already established, the keyboard has a wide variety of sonic options. With these sonic options comes an accompanying variety of playing techniques and styles. Just thinking of the piano, there is such a wide variety of playing styles from gospel to pop, jazz to classical, modern rock (think Coldplay) to classic rock (think Elton John). Moving beyond the piano, the Hammond B3 organ requires an entirely different set of techniques. Electric piano does as well. Synth pads and string sounds require a more legato orchestral approach. Of course this only scratches the surface. Take time to study the differing playing techniques for these various sounds. Shoot to make each sound come across as authentic.

CASEY AND HIS FAMILY ARE BASED IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. PRIOR TO HIS MOVE TO SOUTHERN CAL, CASEY SERVED AS VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER FOR VINEYARD MUSIC (NOW VINEYARD WORSHIP) FOR OVER 10 YEARS. IN ADDITION TO THIS ROLE, CASEY ALSO SERVED AS THE NATIONAL WORSHIP TASK FORCE LEADER FOR VINEYARD USA. HE IS AN ACCOMPLISHED MUSICIAN AND PRODUCER AND HAS ALSO BEEN AN INFLUENTIAL VOICE AS A WORSHIP LEADER, CONFERENCE SPEAKER, AND SONGWRITER. SOME OF CASEY'S MOST WELL-KNOWN SONGS INCLUDE FORM US, DWELL, BETTER THAN, & YOUR LOVE IS AMAZING. CASEY HAS A PASSION TO ENCOURAGE AND EQUIP WORSHIP LEADERS FOR LIFE AND MINISTRY. CASEY IS NOW THE WORSHIP PASTOR FOR THE VINEYARD ANAHEIM. CASEY AND HIS WIFE ANGIE HAVE FOUR DAUGHTERS AND ARE VERY GLAD TO CALL VINEYARD ANAHEIM HOME.




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