

BREAD & BUTTER FOR ACOUSTIC GUITARISTS

FIVE THINGS EVERY WORSHIP ACOUSTIC GUITARIST NEEDS TO KNOW

| CASEY CORUM |

FIVE THINGS EVERY WORSHIP ACOUSTIC GUITARIST NEEDS TO KNOW

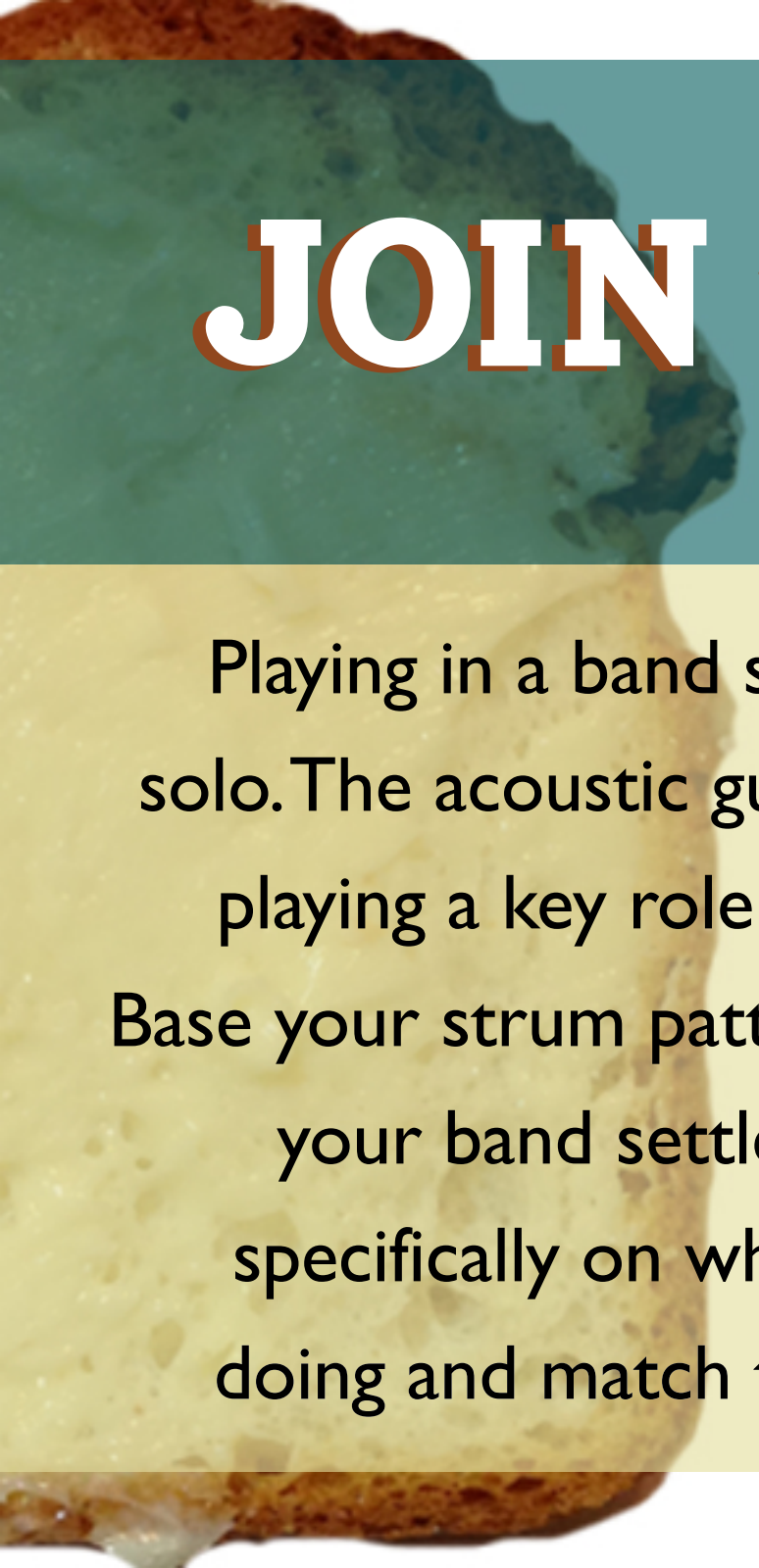
The acoustic guitar is an under-appreciated component piece in our modern worship settings. Clearly, the acoustic guitar is the go-to instrument for many worship leaders. The rhythmic qualities of the acoustic guitar make it an easy instrument from which to lead a band. Additionally, the sonic qualities of the acoustic guitar make it an easy instrument to remove from the main mix if it is not contributing to what the band is playing.



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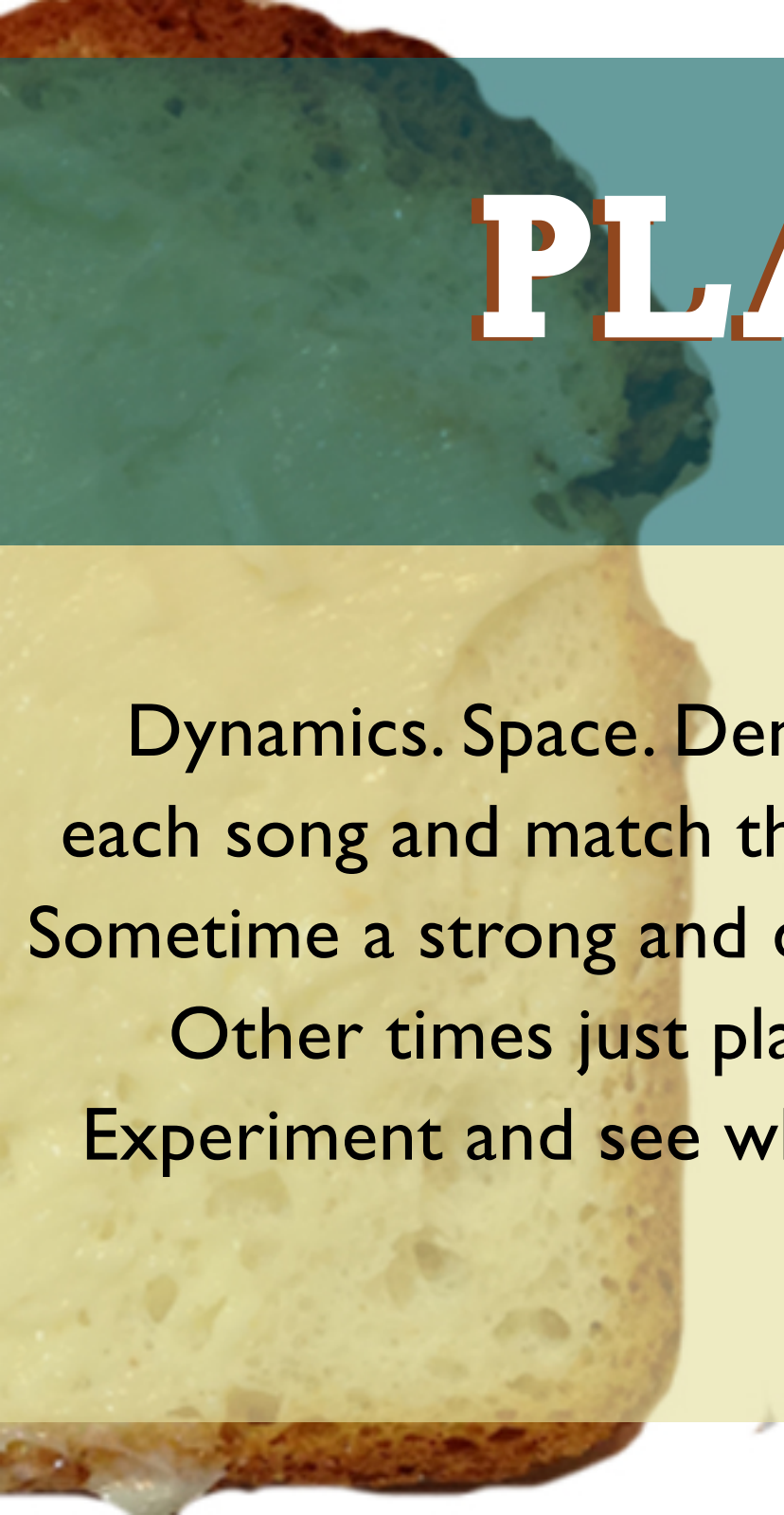
Many times acoustic guitarists
miss the opportunity to make a powerful musical
contribution due to a lack of intentionality in their personal
musical development.

Here are 5 things every worship acoustic guitarist
needs to know:



JOIN THE BAND

Playing in a band setting is very different from playing solo. The acoustic guitar is a powerful rhythm instrument, playing a key role in helping to tie the band together. Base your strum patterns on the groove for each song that your band settles into playing. For starters, focus specifically on what the high hat, kick, and snare are doing and match them with your strumming pattern.



PLAY LESS

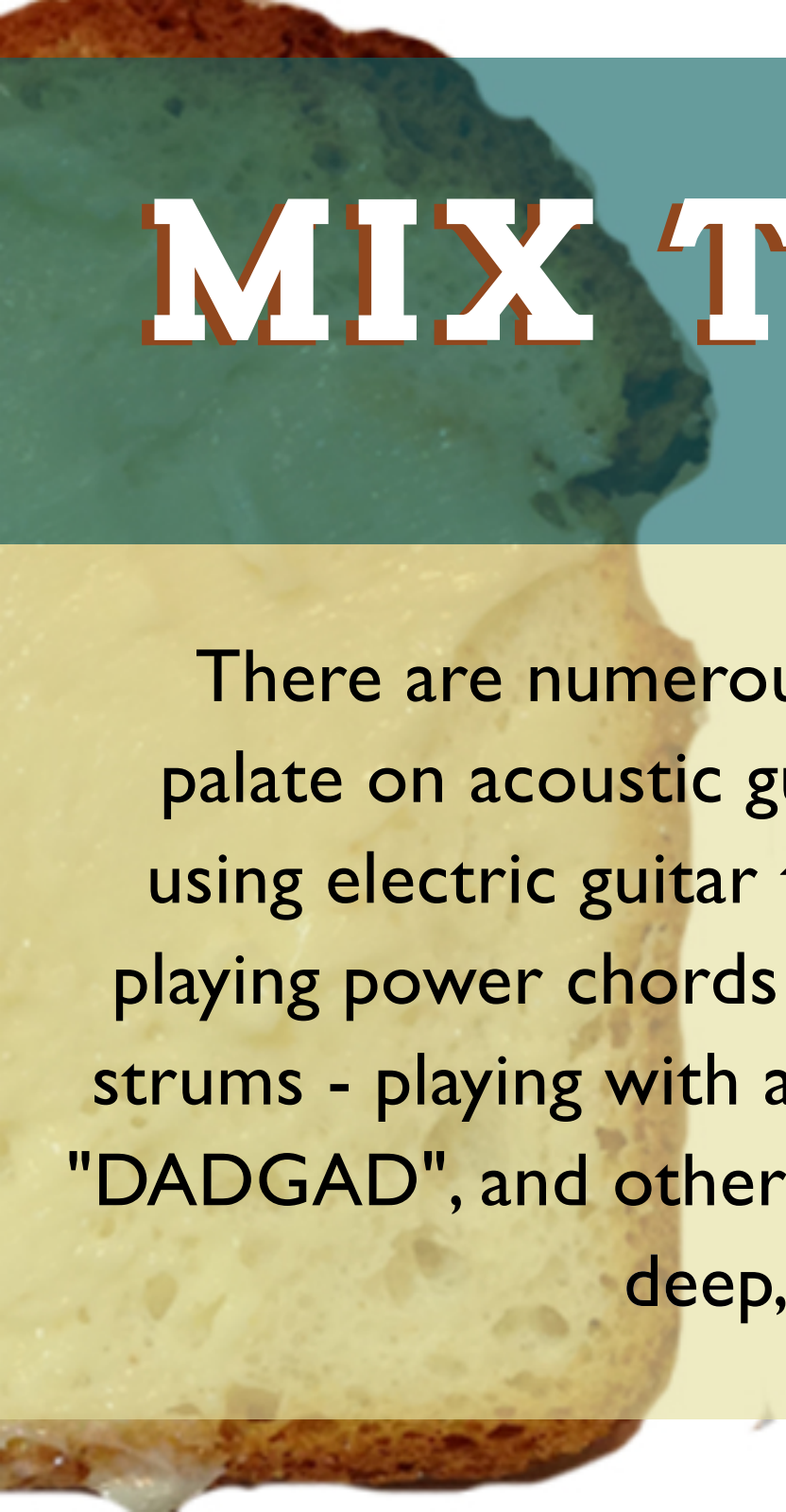
Dynamics. Space. Density. Listen for the push and pull in each song and match the density of your playing accordingly. Sometime a strong and defined strumming pattern is required. Other times just playing one strum per chord is best. Experiment and see what seems to fit best in each section.

EXPERIMENT WITH CHORD VOICINGS

There are many ways to play each chord. These different fingerings are also called "voicings". One way to bring variety to the each song or each section is to mix up the chord voicings that you use. Take some time to learn the various voicings for each chord up and down the neck of the guitar. This will give you more creative and emotional options as you and your band arrange songs week to week.

USE A CAPO

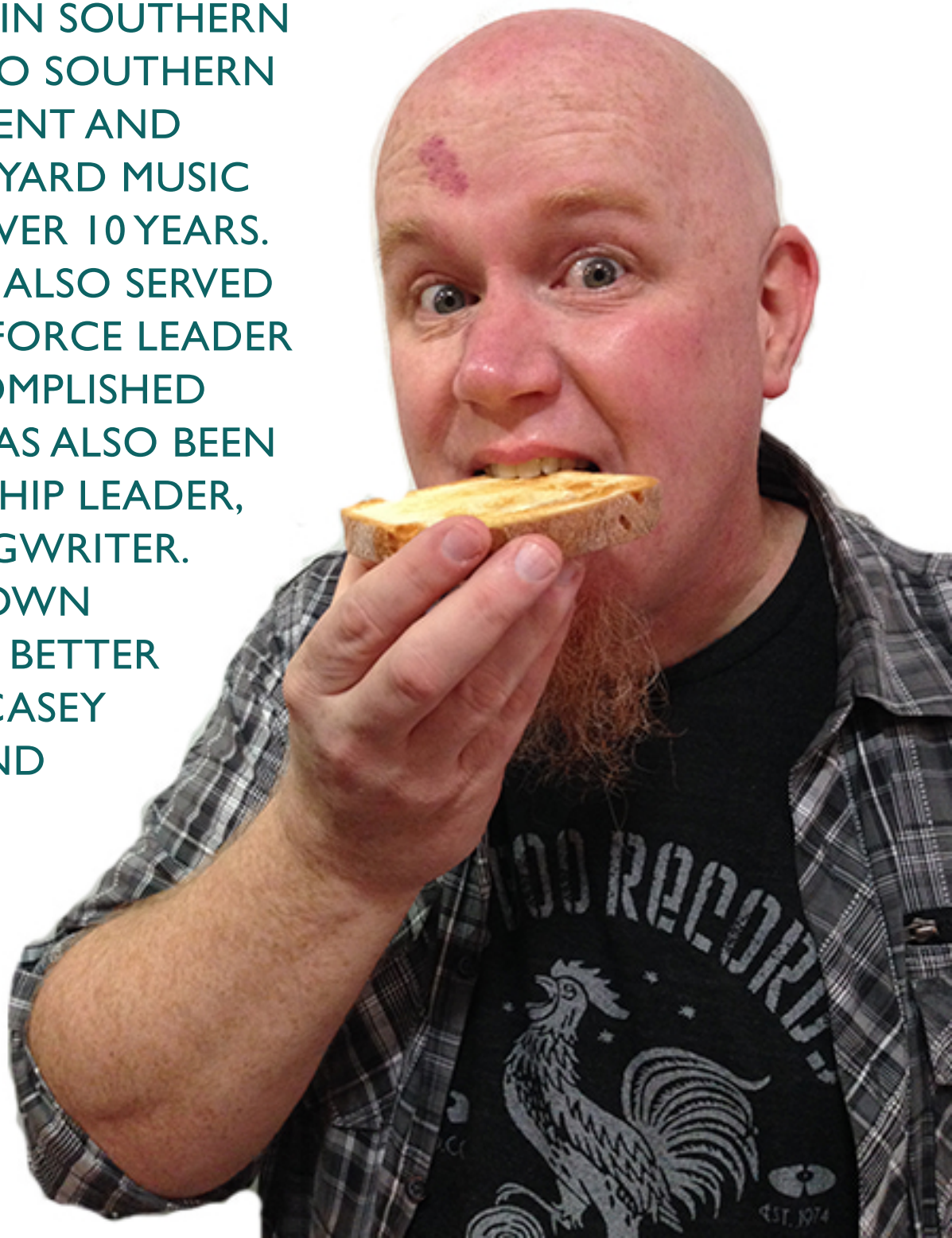
A capo is a fantastic tool for a number of reasons. It certainly helps to make playing in a wider variety of keys much easier. It can also help mix up the tonality of each song by letting you access a different set of chord voicings. For example, trying playing a song in the key of D by putting the capo on the 2nd fret and playing the chord shapes of the key of C. This is especially helpful when playing with two acoustic guitars. Have each guitarist choose a different capo approach and have some fun!



MIX THINGS UP

There are numerous ways to broaden your creative palate on acoustic guitar: strumming vs. fingerpicking - using electric guitar techniques such as palm muting or playing power chords - arpeggiating chords instead of full strums - playing with alternative tunings such as "Drop D", "DADGAD", and other open tunings. Do some research, dig deep, and have some fun!

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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