

2017 BEST APPS FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

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WELCOME

2017 edition of can't miss iPhone, iPad and Android apps to help you do your job better.

I originally released this resource in 2014, a first update in 2016 and now a new list for 2017. In the last couple of years two things have happened.

ONE: We rely even more on technology and the incredible things it can do.
TWO: More and better apps have been released to help you do your job better!

So here is the new & improved 2017 edition of Best Apps for Worship Leaders! Hope this helps you.

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STAY CONNECTED

As always, you can find me on my blog and on social:

BLOG & RESOURCES

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2017 BEST APPS FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

Over time I've developed a great workflow using iPhone and iPad apps. What we are able do with apps as worship leaders would have been unthinkable even 5 years ago. Tuners, metronomes, multitrack recording, service planning – all of it available literally in the palm of your hand thanks to your phone and some great developers.

The tools we have at our disposal can help develop skill, can help our creative development and can help be more efficient with our time. Ultimately, our calling is to equip people in our church to live their lives as faithful followers of Jesus. Apps like these should help us as we work toward that goal.

Take a second and just think about what you would have paid 10 years ago for equipment to do all the things your phone can do today when it comes to your job as a worship leader. We are definitely living in the future!

Being a Mac guy all of these apps are going to be available for Apple products, some are also available for Android. I've added links to both the iOS and Android store when I can.

This is a dynamic list which will grow and change over time. Technology is never slowing down, developers are always improving and stretching the boundaries. Five years from now I'm sure we'll again be amazed with the power and functionality of these devices and the apps they are running.

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YouVersion







You may already have YouVersion on your phone or refer to youversion.com regularly. Of course spending time in Scripture is vital to not only our development as worship leaders but also in our following of Jesus. We can never neglect the priority of reading Scripture, learning from Scripture, reflecting and meditating on Scripture. Neglecting time in God's Word comes at a great cost.

So how can you use YouVersion to help you as a worship leader? One of my favourite ways to use the app is with reading plans developed specifically for worship leaders. Open the app, click the Plans tab, enter Worship in the search bar and then begin a journey of looking at specific passages or devotionals which will help you as a worship leader. Great stuff.

iTunes U





iTunes U

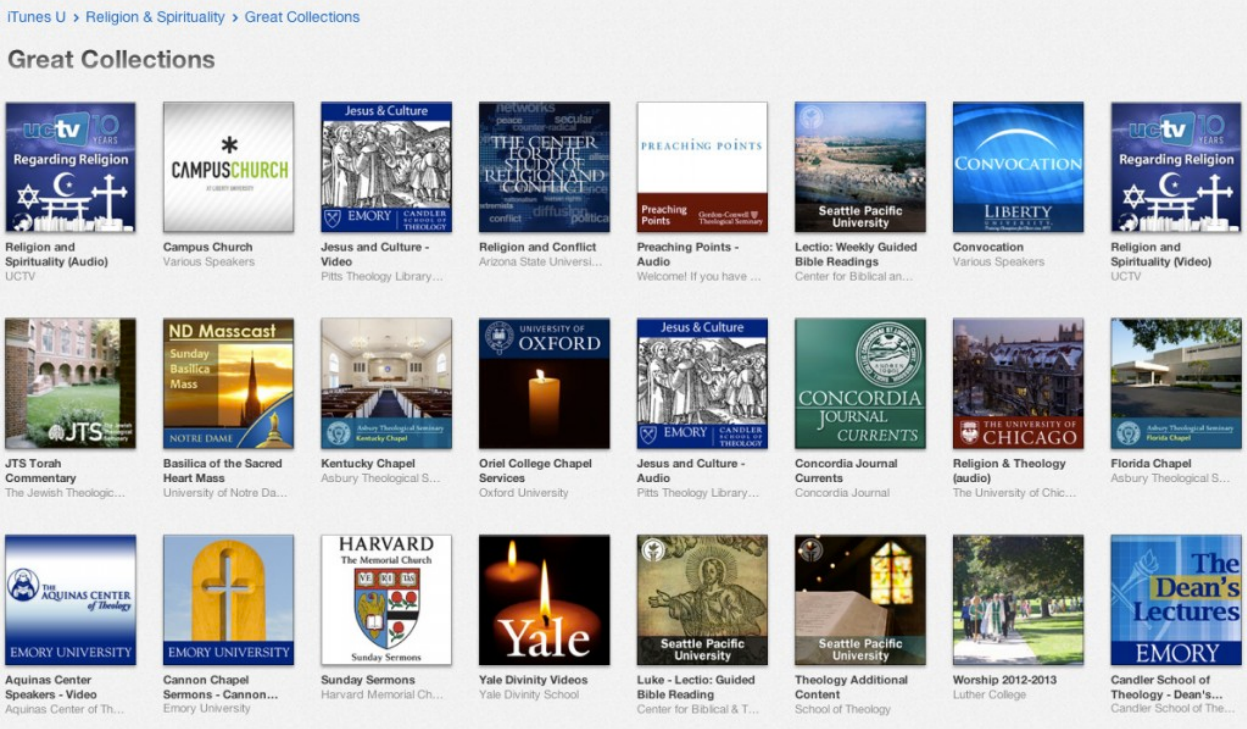
I'm convinced that iTunes U is one of the greatest educational resources available to us yet so few people know about it. If you have iTunes, you have iTunes U and can take advantage of thousands of lectures from educational institutions all around the world.

Remember that we are supposed to love God with our mind as well as our heart, soul and strength and iTunes U is one of the ways we can do that.

How? Open iTunes on your computer and click into the iTunes Store. Click iTunes U at the top along the menu bar. You will see a plethora of choices – over on the right is a dropdown menu where you can select "Religion & Spirituality". Click that and you'll see new courses and collections.

Some of my favourite resources inside iTunes U:

Covenant Theological Seminary
Reformed Theological Seminary
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary



Not sure where to start? Maybe ask your pastor for suggestions. Maybe you want to start a study group with your worship team, have them listen to a lecture and then come together to discuss it.

Planning Center Services & Planning Center Music Stand

Available on the App Store

GET IT ON Google play

planning center Services

Planning Center is one of those *duh* tools that every worship leader should use. Scheduling musicians and other teams, planning services, choosing songs, attaching chord charts, listening to mp3s, communicating with your team – Planning Center does it all. There are free and paid plans depending on how many users you have.

We have used Planning Center since 2007 and I can't imagine doing my job now without it.

The redesigned iPhone app means you and your whole team can have the full power of Planning Center right on your phone. Not only does it work great online but the mobile app is a thing of beauty. Definitely recommended!



BONUS: Planning Center Music Stand is an additional app available for Planning Center customers who have it activated on their account. Music Stand allows your musicians to get their charts right on their iPad, write themselves notes during rehearsal and it even includes a built-in media player and metronome. Awesome.

Yes there's an extra cost to Music Stand ($10/month on top of your Planning Center Services account fee) but you'll save that quickly in time and paper costs by reducing the amount of printing you need to do for charts and lead sheets.

SoundCue

Available on the App Store



SoundCue for iPhone and iPad are apps to run click tracks with your band. Click tracks are stereo audio tracks which have a metronome in one channel and some musical element (pads, percussion, maybe an additional electric guitar part or even some background vocals) on the other channel. Metronome is sent to our musician's in ear monitors while the loop/track channel is sent to our ears and to the house.

I reviewed SoundCue a while ago on my blog – video here: www.chrisfromcanada.com/soundcue

This app is on the pricey side but the functionality is great and it solves an issue which can be a real hiccup for teams that are looking to add to their sound on Sunday morning.

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Playback

Available on the App Store



If you are using click tracks from the guys at multitracks.com you need to be using Playback on your iPhone and iPad. This app has both a free and paid version and allows you to download, play and edit (in the pro version) click track files from your Multitracks account. This is a gamechanger app and is a regular part of our arsenal with our worship team.

Multitracks uses the original studio files from all of your favourite worship artists and those tracks can be bought and downloaded to your computer or to Playback. Mix, edit and export those files to produce a great sounding track to support your band in your services.

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Loop Community Prime

Available on the App Store



Prime is similar to Playback and is produced by the guys at Loop Community. Songs you buy through your Loop Community account will be here and you can also upload your own audio tracks to their cloud account.

Prime moves a bit closer to Ableton Live than Playback with the use of markers and how it integrates with their Looptimus foot pedal. If you are looking to take your multitrack game to the next level, Prime is a great choice for you!

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Tempo



You might not want to use click tracks with additional instruments but you may want to use a metronome at least for your drummer on some songs. Tempo is another great app to help with this. Choose tempo, time signatures, subdivision patterns and then build a setlist of tempos for your songlist.

Run the audio out of your iPhone into your drummer's headphones to make sure you've got the right tempo for each song when you play on Sunday. Create a setlist of tempos to keep your whole band in time.

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Loopy

Available on the App Store



Loopy is one of those apps that will become so central to your songwriting workflow that you'll wonder what you did without it! This is the easiest, most functional way to record great sounding songwriting demos on the fly. It's super fun to use and also does the job really well. This has become a key part of my songwriting and allows me to capture a fuller idea of a song rather than only a melody idea or a lead line.

Loopy is available for iPhone and iPad and is one of the most fun apps to use, especially with other musicians. You will have a blast playing around with different ideas and discovering new sounds through your looping.

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Polytune

Available on the App Store



Ever stuck with an out of tune guitar and don't want to pull out your tuner, plug it in, go string by string? You need Polytune! Beautiful little app that lives on your home screen and will show you tuning on *all six strings* at once. Seriously!

Give your guitar one strum across all strings and the screen will show you where each string is either sharp or flat. Polytune also works great as a traditional tuner.

This one is a must have!

Adobe Post



Adobe Post is this really fun, easy, creative way to add great-looking text over any photo on your iPhone. I use it to share a song list with our congregation so they know what to expect when they come on Sunday.

The built-in templates in Post make it really easy to use and the final result looks fantastic when you post on instagram, twitter or facebook.

Other ideas: add quotes to a photo, include a lyric from a song you're singing or maybe post a Bible verse or quote from the message your pastor preached on Sunday.

Canva

Available on the App Store



Canva has been a game changer related to communications and how anyone can now make great looking template-based graphics. One really great tip is that a paid Canva for Work account is available *free* if your church is a non-profit. That's awesome!

Creating incredible graphics for Sunday setlists, social media posts, email newsletters or even sermon series promo is easier than ever with Canva and their app for iPhone and iPad.

Periscope

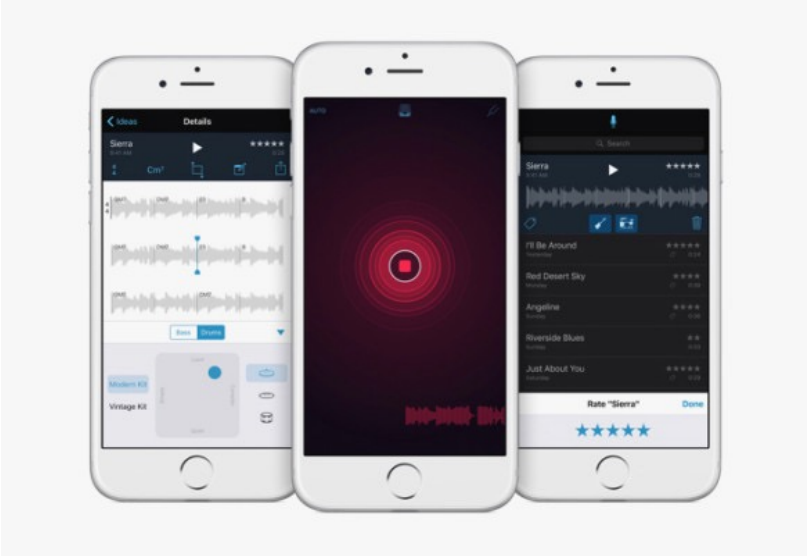


Periscope is the perfect example of an app that wasn't available when I did the first edition and why it needed an update. No app is more fun, more engaging or has more potential (in my mind) when it comes to social media than Periscope.

Everything from team meetings, rehearsals, creative Q&A, random conversations and special events can be broadcast with Periscope. I think we are just seeing the beginning of the livestream revolution and Periscope is out ahead of the pack right now.

Music Memos

Available on the App Store



Music Memos is another huge leap forward in app technology that we've seen in the last couple years. This is voice memos on steroids! Record audio and watch it automatically figure out bar markings, chord changes, add drum patterns and bass lines. Incredible.

Audio from Music Memos can be exported to Garage Band and then to any other audio editing software you use. This is an incredible free app that should allow you to capture and develop some awesome songwriting ideas.

Hum

Available on the App Store



If you want to go next level with your songwriting then Hum is the right answer. You will LOVE Hum because it pulls together so many of the individual apps you use on your phone for songwriting – Voice Memos, Notes, Evernote, Dropbox, etc – and brings the functionality of each of those apps to one place.

Record quick song ideas, jot down songwriting ideas or lyrical inspiration and then go back and search through all of your ideas in one place. No more clicking from app to app to get your idea from inspiration to completion, it's all in one place with Hum.

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So there's my current list of best apps for worship leaders. Of course there are thousands and thousands of other apps out there which worship leaders around the world are using.

What apps are you using to help you do your job better?

Send me an email - chrisvacher@gmail.com
Hit me up on social - www.chrisvacher.com

 **www.twitter.com/chrisfromcanada**

 **www.facebook.com/chrisfromcanada**

 **www.instagram.com/chrisfromcanada**

Worship leaders, tell me about the apps you are using every week to help you do your job better.

Until then, all the best. Let's keep on leveraging technology and every other resource available to lead, shepherd and equip the church as we follow Jesus together.

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