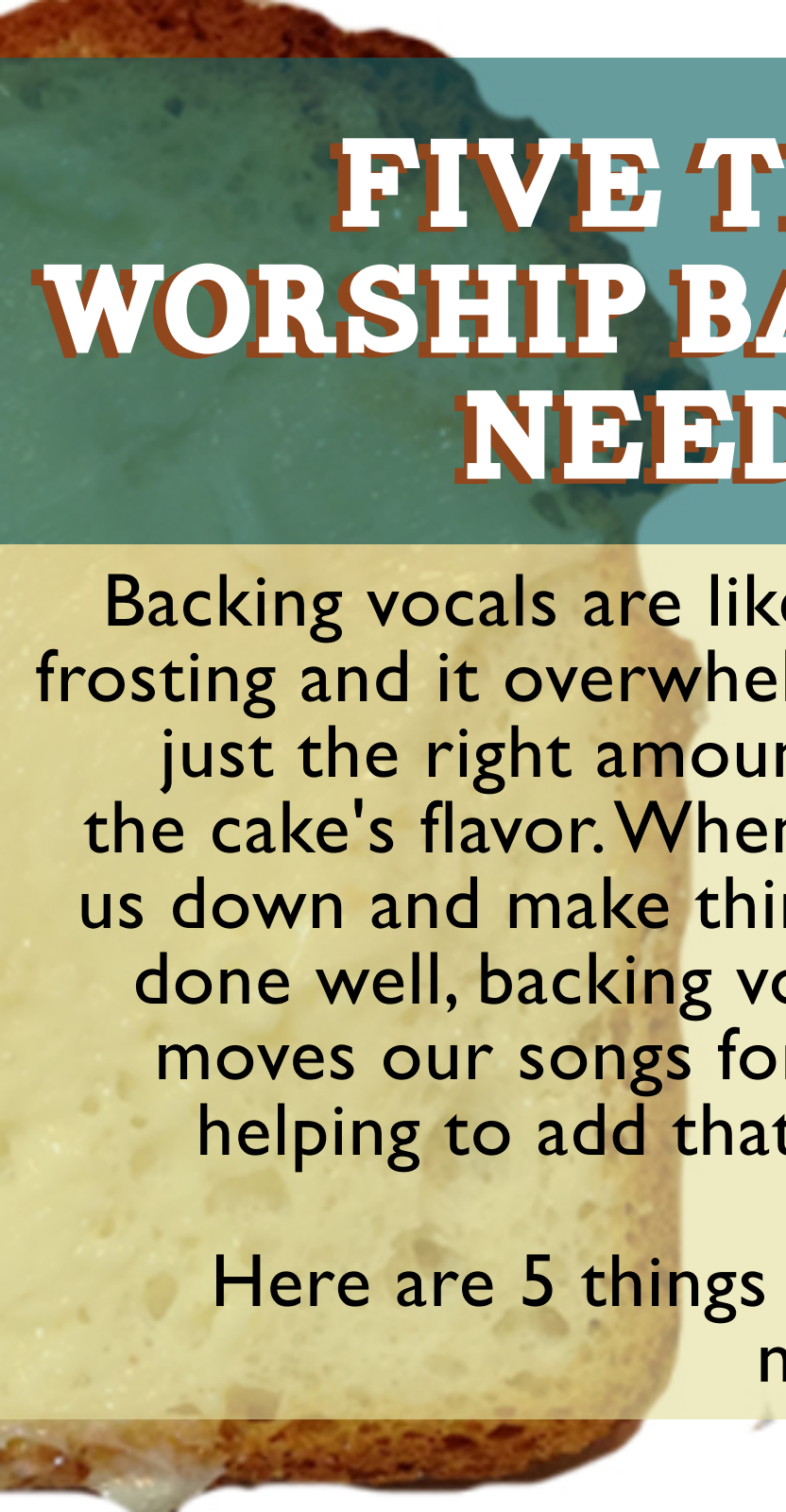


FIVE THINGS EVERY WORSHIP BACKING VOCALIST NEEDS TO KNOW

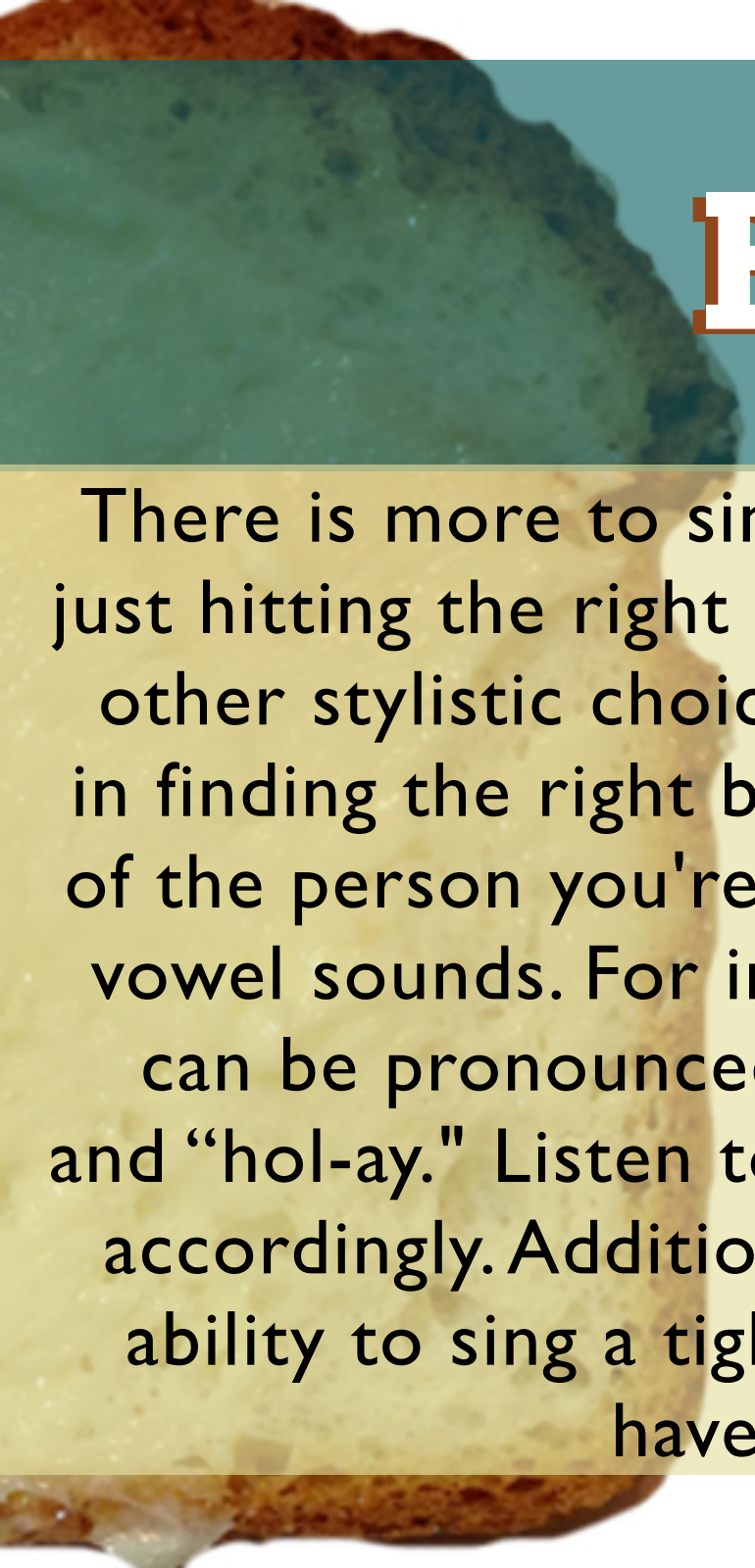
| CASEY CORUM |



FIVE THINGS EVERY WORSHIP BACKING VOCALIST NEEDS TO KNOW

Backing vocals are like the frosting on a cake. Too much frosting and it overwhelms the taste of the cake. In contrast, just the right amount of frosting can greatly enhance the cake's flavor. When overdone, backing vocals can bog us down and make things lose musical momentum. When done well, backing vocals are a powerful element that moves our songs forward dynamically with emotion, helping to add that "finishing touch" to each song.

Here are 5 things every worship backing vocalist needs to know:



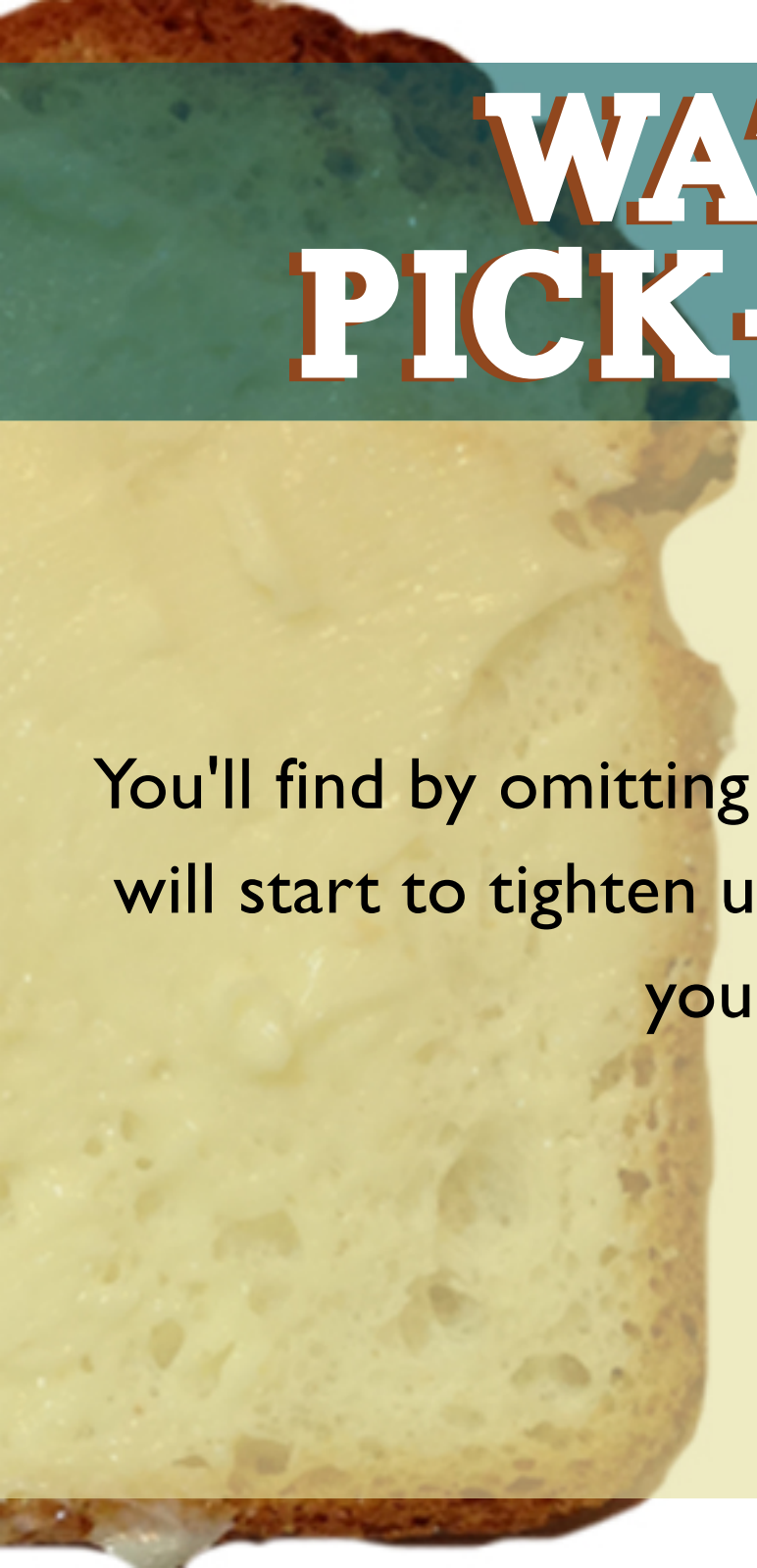
BLEND

There is more to singing a quality backing vocal part than just hitting the right notes. A vocalist's tonality, vibrato, and other stylistic choices are important factors to consider in finding the right blend. Do your best to match the style of the person you're singing with. In particular, watch your vowel sounds. For instance, words like "glory" and "holy" can be pronounced "glor-ee" and "hol-ee" or "glor-ay" and “hol-ay." Listen to the leader's pronunciation and blend accordingly. Additionally, learn to sing a tight unison. The ability to sing a tight unison vocal is a powerful tool to have in your vocal arsenal.

WATCH THE PICK-UP WORDS

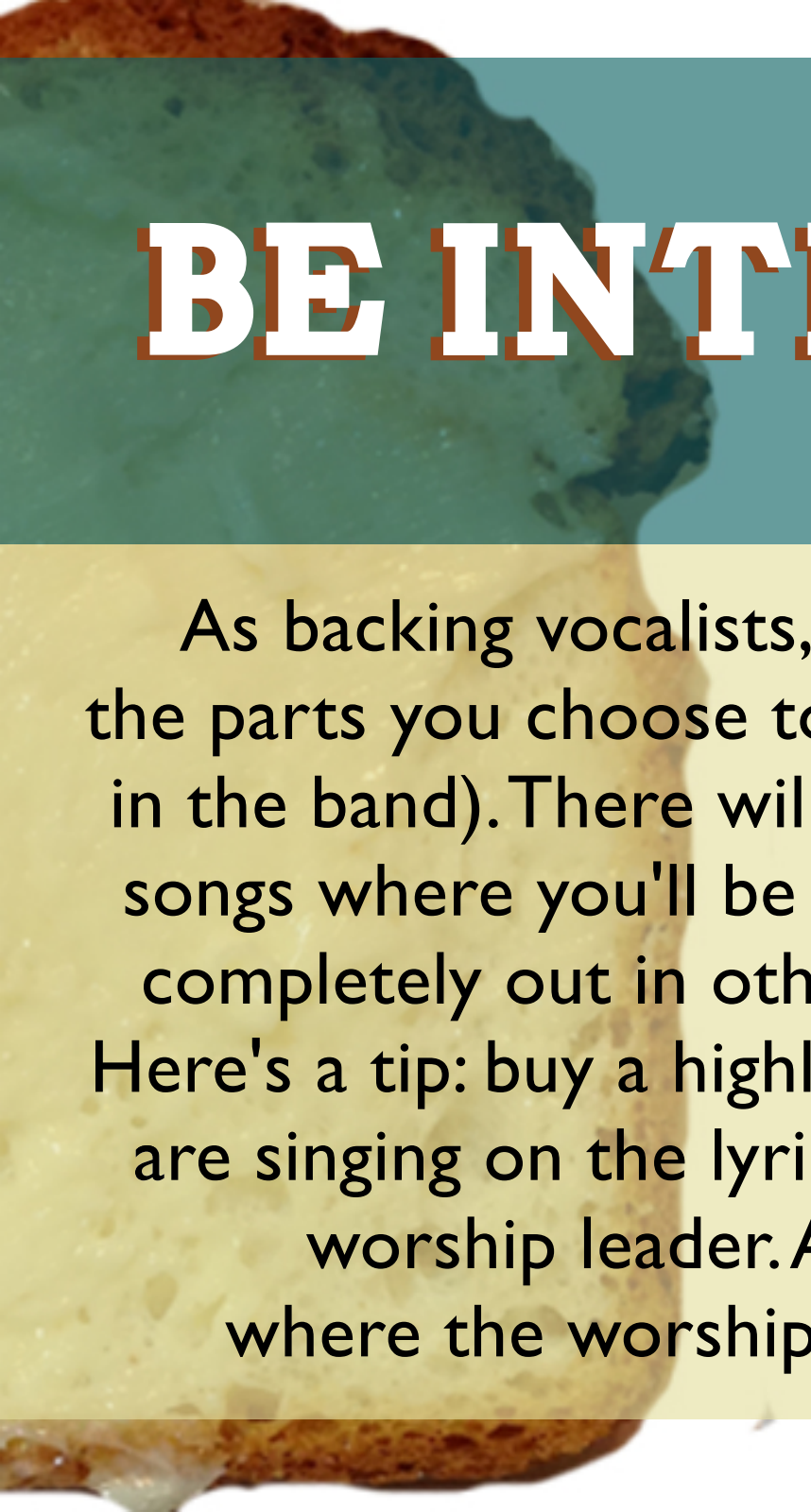
To help clean up the overall sound of your backing vocals try skipping the "pick-up words" leading into each phrase. You can also try highlighting key words and phrases rather than singing every word verbatim. For instance, on the first verse of the Vineyard UK song "Surrender" try coming in on the underlined words and skipping the rest:

I'm giving You my heart, all that is within
I lay it all down, for the sake of You my King
I'm giving You my dreams, I'm laying down my rights
I'm giving up my pride, for the promise of new life



WATCH THE PICK-UP WORDS

You'll find by omitting pick-up words your backing vocal parts will start to tighten up nicely. Experiment and see what suits your band's musical style.



BE INTENTIONAL

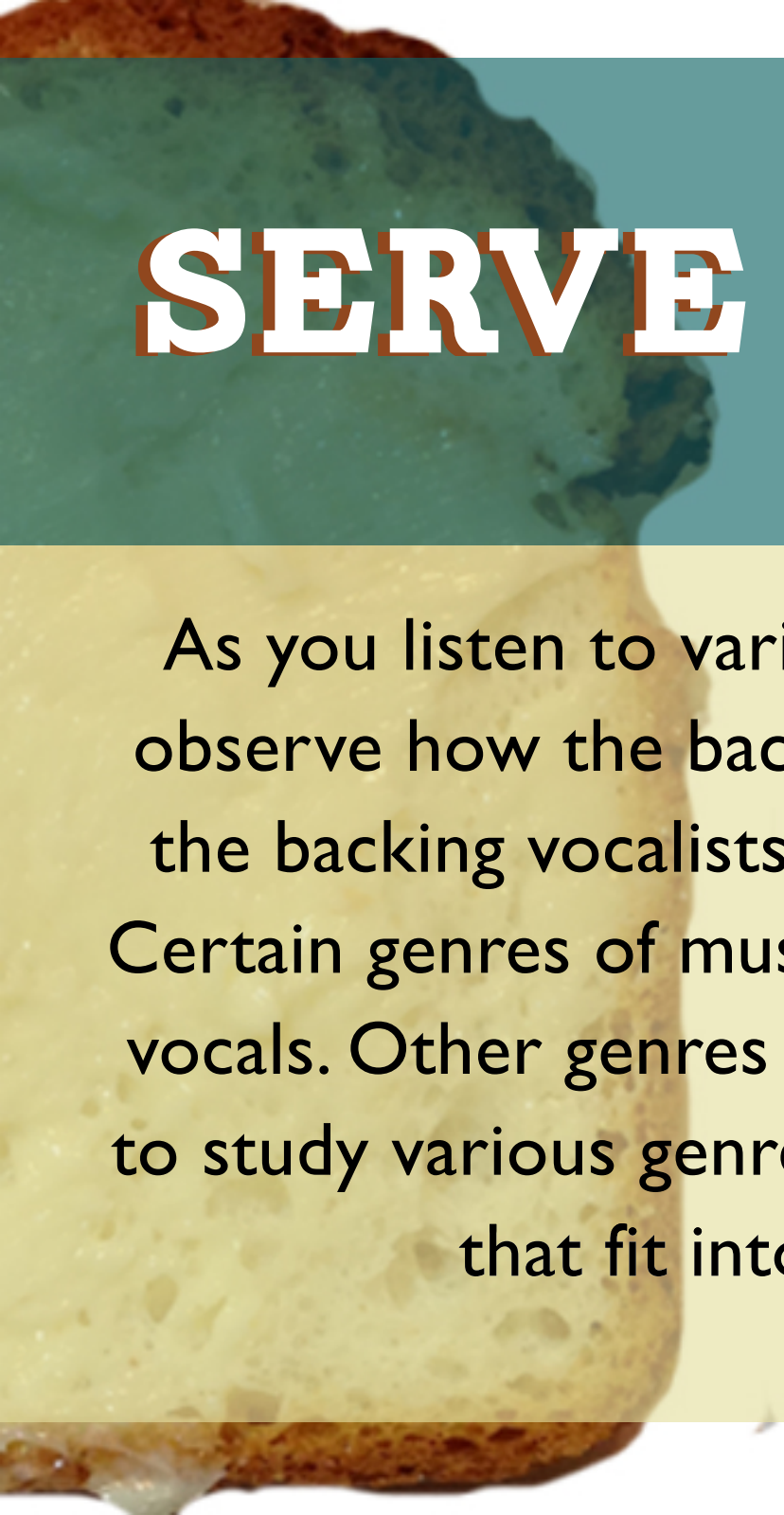
As backing vocalists, you need to be intentional about the parts you choose to sing (just like any other instrument in the band). There will be a "push and pull" effect to most songs where you'll be singing a lot in certain sections and completely out in others. Do what is best for each song. Here's a tip: buy a highlighter and highlight the sections you are singing on the lyric chart. Be open to input from your worship leader. Ask for input if you aren't sure where the worship leader wants you to sing BGVs.

MAKE TIME FOR DEDICATED VOCAL REHEARSAL

This is especially true if you are singing with more than one backing vocalist. The more parts involved, the greater the need for coordination in the parts that each person sings. Dedicate time to rehearsing only the vocals. It can be helpful to rehearse off mic with just a guitar or piano as accompaniment.

MAKE TIME FOR DEDICATED VOCAL REHEARSAL

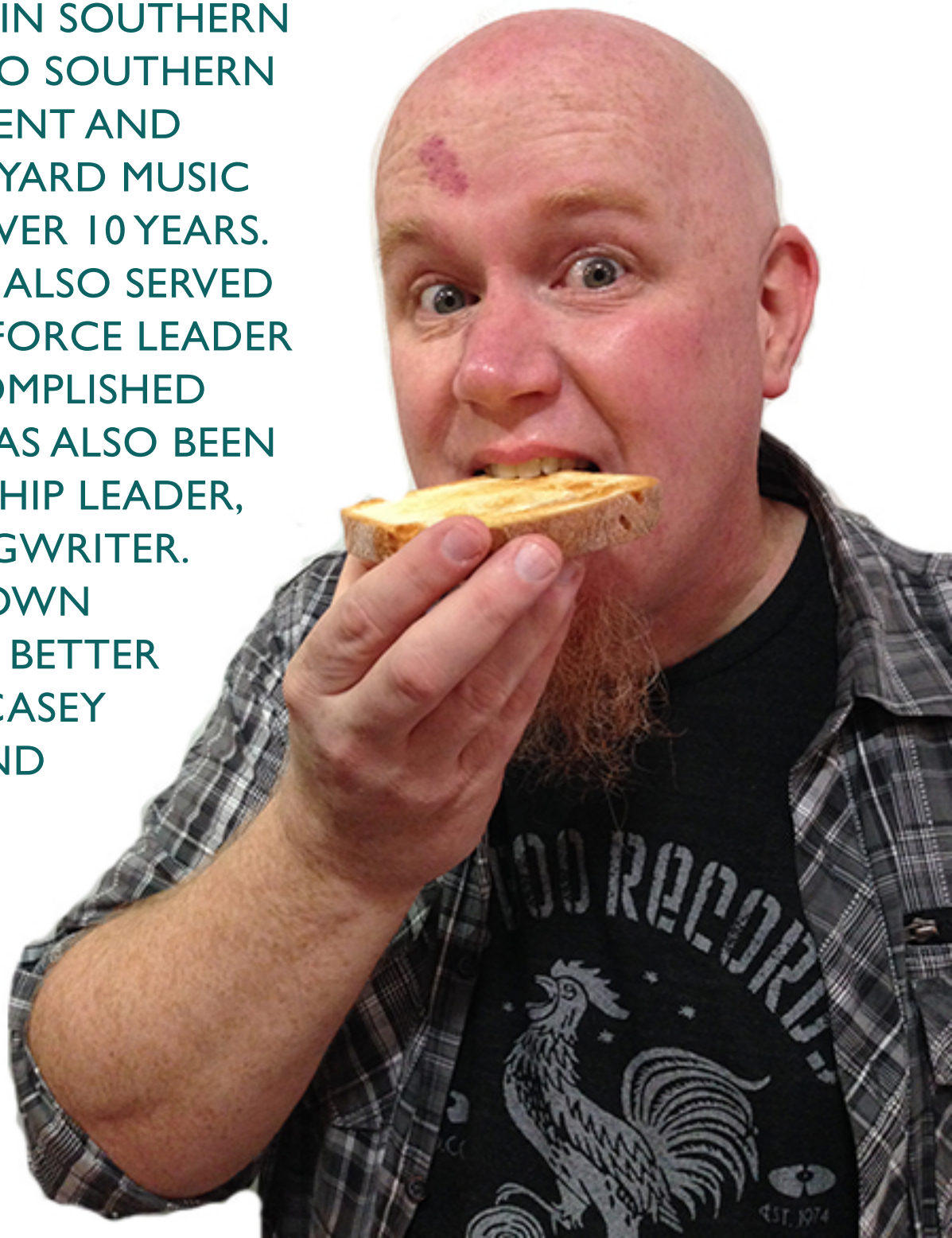
Watch out for parts that accidentally join another or join the melody. These "accidental unison" notes can work in some songs and not in others. Notice them and adjust accordingly. Also, learn to move up and down the chord inversions in the places the melody jumps. This may involve switching parts with other vocalists as the melody moves around.

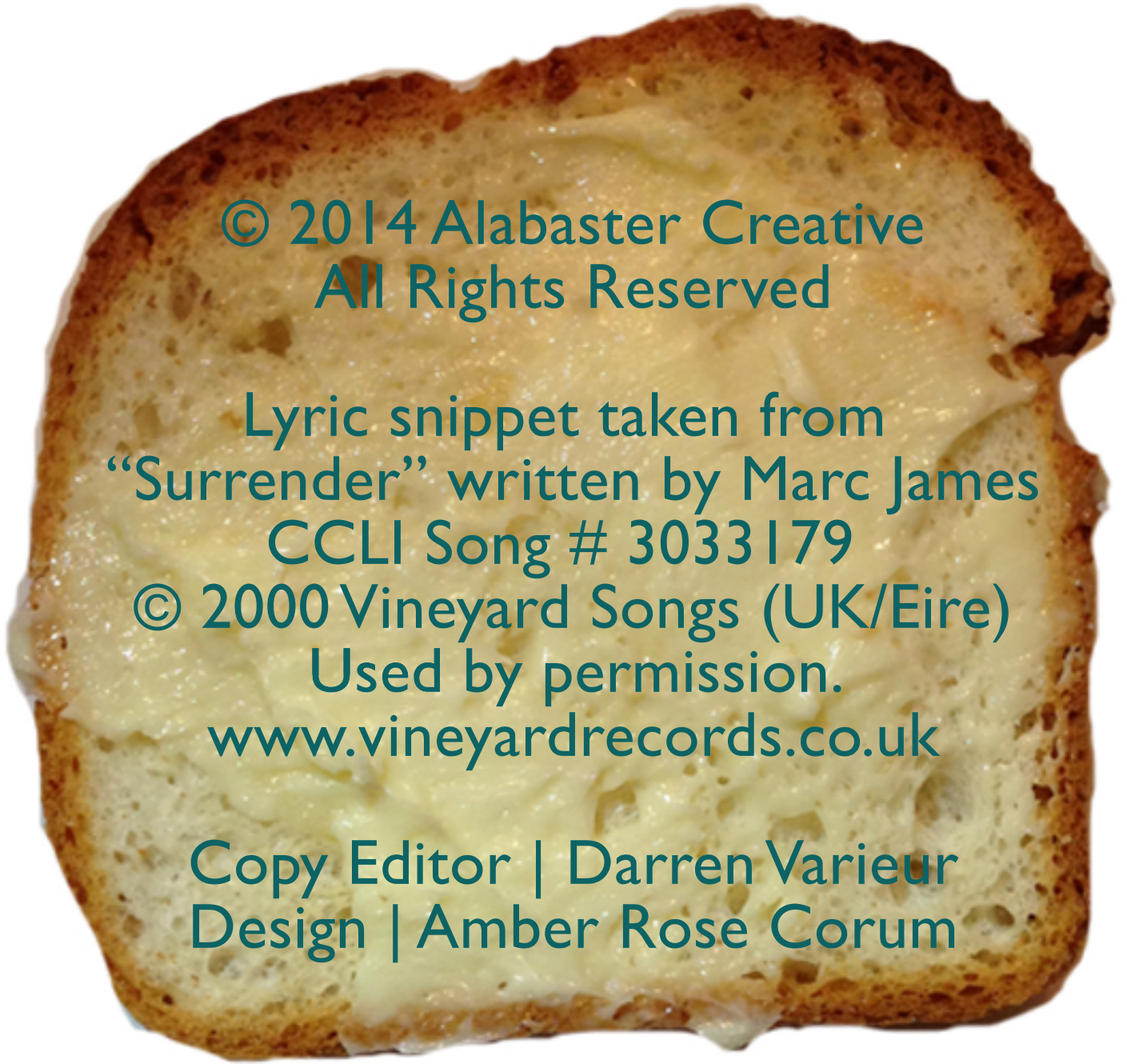


SERVE THE GENRE

As you listen to various genres of music, take time to observe how the backing vocals come in and out. What the backing vocalists do will vary from genre to genre. Certain genres of music will have heavy, constant backing vocals. Other genres can have almost nothing. Take time to study various genres or music and learn to hear parts that fit into the genre of each song.

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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