

The Worship Musician (Song Memorization Tool)

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Song Memorization Tool:

This can be a tool for you to memorize a song on the fly and apply certain grooves, chords, parts, and dynamics for those different sections. Once you get the hang of it this will help you feel out a song's movement from beginning to end. This type of structure that you'll see below is sometimes referred to as The Verse with Middle Eight. Meaning the "B" part is 8 bars long. But in today's music the "B" part can be 4 or 16 bars longs depending on the writer(s). Below is an easy way that I have formulated this and made it work for me. I simply make all sections 8 bars long for ease. If it's 16 bars then I'll double it like so (A, A for repeating 8 bar verses) or (B, B for repeating 8 bar Choruses). And if a section is shorter, which will probably be more applicable in an Intro, Turnaround, or Outtro, I'll write (I 1/2, or T 1/2). Again this is what works for me. It's a great way to show up to a rehearsal, if you haven't really heard the material, and memorize it or reference it quickly if you seem to forget where you're going.

Look at the key and Examples below for reference.

Key:

I = Intro and Outtro

T = Turnarounds - Sometimes known as Midtros or Connectors

A = Verse

B = Chorus Sections

C = Bridge Sections

Looks fairly simple right?? Here's a few examples of very popular songs using this type of tool

Chris Tomlin's "And if Our God is For Us"

I, A, A, B, T 1/2, A, B, B, C, C, C, B, B, B, I

Worship Ideas "Forever Amen"

I, A, B, T 1/2, A, B, T 1/2, C, B 1/2, B, I

Coldplay's "Clocks"

I, I, A, A, B, T, A, A, B, B, T, T, C, I, B, B, I, I

Feel free to elaborate and make it your own. It is a tool for speed and accuracy when don't have time to gather, prepare, memorize, and rehearse all of your material. Sometimes life is busy and interrupts all the things we would like to do and have time for. Hopefully this tool will help you in a crunch or in everyday charting while you prepare and rehearse for your worship service or performance.