

# Running a Rehearsal

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## Be Prepared

- ❖ Have your songs ready. Service orders have been submitted, and you've checked through the songs.
- ❖ Make sure you've personally practiced them in advance so that you know them well enough to lead them in rehearsal and on the Sunday.
- ❖ Communicate the songs to the band well in advance before rehearsal so that they can practice them in advance.
- ❖ Be familiar with all of the songs on the list/in the folders. Use the chord charts and CD's and clips on the website.

## Plan the set

- ❖ Know your introductions and endings. Communicate these with the band.
- ❖ Plan any repeats of choruses, codas and verses. Again, communicate these with the band, as well as with Fay/the office so that they can be incorporated into the PowerPoint word charts.
- ❖ Think about and rehearse the flow between the songs. If you're playing a block of two or three songs, do you want these to flow together. Do you want to (need to) stop in between the songs. How will they link together musically?
- ❖ Try and fit songs together (think about tempo, feel and keys).

## Encourage Creativity

- ❖ Allow space in rehearsal for spontaneity.
- ❖ Practice instrumental versions of the songs.
- ❖ Jam together!
- ❖ Try familiar songs in different styles.

## Community

- ❖ Pray together first. Maybe share some of the thought that has gone into putting the songs together.
- ❖ Encourage.
- ❖ Aim to finish on time.

### Example service order

So as an example, this is a service order that I put together recently for a Sunday. You can see that:

The first set of three songs start fast and then gradually reduce in pace.

The keys of the songs are sympathetic to each other, so it is easy to seamlessly transition between them. *Because of Your Love* and *Everyone Needs Compassion* are in the same key, although the ending chord of *Because of Your Love* is actually a D, and the beginning chord of *Everyone Needs Compassion* is actually a C. But they work together.

Similarly, the last two songs are in keys that complement each other. There is a distinct tempo difference between the two, but this was chosen so that we could be more reflective and responsive as we came out of the talk, then end the service with a bit of a bang!

<b>May include:</b> Songs, Prayers, Readings, Offering, Special	<b>Because of Your Love</b>	<b>Sheet</b>	<b>Paul</b>	<b>Key of G</b>
	<b>Everyone Needs Compassion</b>	<b>1757</b>	<b>Paul</b>	<b>Key of G</b>
	<b>How Lovely is Your Dwelling</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>Paul</b>	<b>Key of E</b>
<b>Target End Time: 25 mins</b>	Offering		Chris	
<b>May include:</b> Talk, Response, Closer	Talk		Michael	
	Response		Chris	
<b>Target End Time: 1 hr 5 mins</b>	<b>10,000 Reasons</b>	<b>Sheet</b>	<b>Paul</b>	<b>Key of A</b>
	<b>There is a louder shout</b>	<b>1034</b>	<b>Paul</b>	<b>Key of D</b>
	Closing Prayer		Chris	

So for rehearsal, the band was mostly familiar with these songs, so the areas to concentrate on were:

What the intro and endings were for each song.

How we linked the songs together...so that it could remain seamless and not everybody would just stop!

Who lead the introduction: is it always guitar/keys lead, or do we also sometimes get the drums to count in?

Where we insert repeats, choruses, bridges and codas: *10,000 Reasons* has two different choruses, the standard and the end chorus. We only do the end chorus (with repeated last lines) the last time around, but the way the chart is written (for simplicity) it is easy to lead into this last chorus from the 3<sup>rd</sup> verse.

What we do between verses and choruses, as some songs have a bridge/riff that is played each time, some have chords that are held longer (call it breathing space!), some will repeat the intro between each section.

On *There is a louder shout*, I like to leave a few extra bars of D before I go into the last verse, and I aim to bring the level of the band back a bit for that last verse before we go into the chorus.

## **Individual Consistency!**

This all needs to be communicated and practiced with the band at the rehearsal stage, so that when we are leading the congregation on a Sunday they are not confused!

We as leaders do not have to lead every song in the same way. However, our bands do need to follow us and know where we are going!

Have confidence to lead songs in the way you want to. It is fine to say “we’re going to play this like it is on the CD”, or “I heard this done at New Wine and it was great” or “I think this would work better if we start with the chorus/drop the bridge/repeat the last line of every verse....” Etc.

Make sure everyone has pencils at rehearsals so that they can write down orders (Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Bridge) and repeats, and pauses, and so on. So that when Tuesday’s rehearsal transitions to Sunday’s service, all of the notes are remembered!

We want the worship at EBC to be consistently excellent, so that we are leading the congregation into the presence of God no matter which service they are at, and no matter who is leading the band. Everybody will lead in their own style, with their own personality and fingerprints on the songs they are leading. That is great! The important thing is to make sure that their band is following them, and this needs to happen in a rehearsal first in order for it to be effective on a Sunday.