

# Worship Rehearsal Field Guide

*Seven Quick Wins to Make Your Worship Team Sound Instantly Better*

## **Description:**

This reference sheet is designed for worship leaders, MDs, and band members to use during rehearsals or pre-service run-throughs. These seven checkpoints help ensure the band isn't just playing the same song—you're playing it *together*. Feel free to print it, laminate it, and keep it on a music stand.

## **1. Have You Called Out the Key, Tempo, and Time Signature?**

This is the *starting point* for every tight worship team. Don't assume your team knows the feel—name it. Is it in **6/8** or **4/4**? That distinction changes the entire groove and feel. Without clarity, you risk having a drummer play a straight four-on-the-floor in a song that's meant to sway, or a keyboardist rushing a slow build. Naming the **tempo** (bpm), **key**, and **time signature** sets your foundation. Always call it. Every time.

## **2. Are the Bass and Kick Locked In?**

These two create the foundation of your groove. When they hit together, everything else feels tight—even if the rest is loose. If they're off, the song feels floaty or disjointed. The bassist and drummer should listen to each other like a rhythm section married in sync.

## **3. Are the Harmonies Defined?**

If two singers think they're both singing harmony, but it's the same part—or worse, clashing parts—you get a muddy vocal sound. Clearly define who's singing melody, third, or fifth. Locking in harmonies creates lift and clarity.

## **4. Are Keys and Electric Guitar Working Together or Competing?**

These instruments often live in the same sonic space. If both are playing full chords or the same rhythm, it becomes a wash. Encourage layering—e.g., let keys pad while the electric plays melodic lines. Frequency separation brings clarity and beauty.

## **5. Is the Acoustic Player Following the Snare?**

Acoustic strumming can ruin or rescue a rhythm. Ask your acoustic guitarist to match their down-strums to the snare hits—this glues the top end of your rhythm section together. It's a small change that drastically tightens your overall sound.

## **6. Are You Being Dynamic with Vocal Layering?**

Not everyone needs to sing all the time. Use solo vocals in verses, build with harmonies in pre-choruses, and open up in choruses. This gives shape to the song and lets the congregation follow the emotional journey.

## **7. Are You Being Dynamic with Instruments?**

Songs aren't meant to be walls of sound. Consider dropping instruments out on certain verses, building them back in layers, or holding off on cymbals until the second chorus. Dynamic shifts in volume, presence, and instrumentation create interest and impact.