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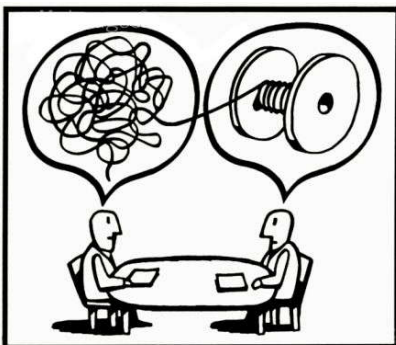
Building on your **structure** WORSHIP TEAM

By Jared Moore

Worship Pastor at Rock Family Church



It is no quiet secret that musicians avoid structure and order. They react to it like a cat in bathwater. But it's all show. They crave order. They need structure. As pastors and leaders, it's our job to put guardrails along the road we are leading our musicians on. Sion Alfred, the Worship Administrative Pastor of Gateway Church, said once, "If you don't build order and structure in your department, God will not send you the people that you have been praying for. Leadership is the lid on your department and you are the leadership." Ouch. So, let's talk structure.



As the Worship Pastor at Rock Family Church, I'm not going to lecture about worship department administration, but rather the practical issues that arise during a worship service. So let's start with this basic foundation: every worship pastor and leader needs to know what the flow of leadership is within a service. ***Telling your worship leader to just flow in the Holy Spirit doesn't cut it. A lack of clarity breeds anxiety in a musician.*** Every department needs to communicate a clear

flow of leadership and authority.

Because I'm the worship pastor, some may think I sit atop the totem pole of authority for a worship service. But they're wrong. I'm actually in third place. And those who are highly spiritual may say that the Holy Spirit should be placed first in the worship team's flow chart. But again, they'd be mistaken. "Burn him at the stake!" you scream. Just wait. This is not an idealistic spiritual issue. It's logistical. The goal for the worship team during a worship service is to lead worship in an orderly and organized manner and the flow of authority should be structured to provide this. Keep in mind this is not the flowchart for church authority. It only applies to the worship team and is only in operation during a worship service. ***Teaching authority to your worship leader will have a resounding effect on their leadership and confidence.*** So here is the flow of authority for my worship team. Adapt as needed for your situation:

1st: The Senior Pastor

In every worship service, everything flows from the senior pastor's leadership. He is seeking God for the direction and purpose of the service. He can do what he sees fit. The worship pastor leads worship under the senior pastor's umbrella of permission. As the cliché goes, the head pastor is the head worship leader.



2nd: The Holy Spirit

This is where I want to give clarity. Remember, a flow chart is purely logistical, not idealistic. My freedom to yield to the Holy Spirit in the midst of a worship service is directly derived from the senior pastor. The question is never "Do I follow the Holy Spirit?" it is "How far can I go?" During a worship service, I consistently have an eye on my senior pastor and an ear towards the Spirit. I know what's going on in the room at all times. If the pastor leaves the auditorium during the worship service, I have charge of the service. If he steps up on stage during a song, I yield to him. If he's deep in worship, then I continue to flow where I feel the Holy Spirit leading. The pastor trusts me and I trust the pastor.

For example, there have been several times I have sensed the need to repeat a portion of a song in order to go a little deeper in worship and have opened my eyes to the surprising scene of Pastor Dean standing there tapping his fist on his chest which means, "Stop singing now or I'm gonna rip the power cable from your keyboard." Then he proceeds to flow with a healing anointing or something similar and it has always been a fantastic and rewarding experience. The Pastor's "Holy-Spirit card" always trumps my "Holy-Spirit card," always.

3rd: Worship Pastor

As my eyes are on the senior pastor and my ear is towards the Holy Spirit, the attention of the band is on me. Where the worship pastor leads and flows, they follow.

4th: Worship Leader

Whoever leads a song, besides the worship pastor, has control during that song. The band's attention turns towards them.

5th: Band Director

The band director has a large understanding of the arrangements and what the songs should sound like. During rehearsal they have the authority to stop a song and give correction. The worship pastor often defers to the band director in matters of arrangement and band direction.



6th: The Drummer

This is really a secret. We try not to let drummers think any more highly of themselves than what is absolutely necessary. But the drums are the hub of the band's sound and arrangement. Where the drummer goes we have to follow...for better or worse. We just pray they have memorized the arrangement.

7th: The Click Track

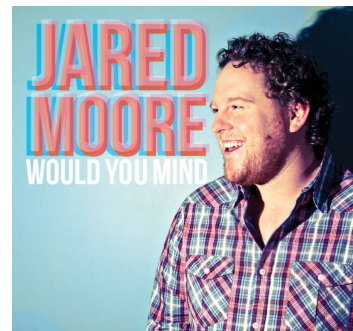
This is the only inanimate object allowed on the flow chart. It's the train track that all instrumentalists travel down. It's the foundation of a tight and good sound. If your band does not use one, change it. This is the single most effective tool for instantaneous growth within your worship team.

Remember, your musicians want to be taught. They want to have clarity. They want leadership. *And they want you to be that leader.*

I have a heart for worship teams, so if I can be of any assistance to you or your worship leader, give me a shout; jared@rockfamilychurch.com. Also, another great resource for your worship leader is my blog @ pastorjared.com
Find me on twitter: @jaredmoore

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Just For Fun

Holiday Diet Advice

After an exhaustive review of the research literature, here's the final word on nutrition and health:



1. Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.

2. Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.

3. Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.

4. Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart

attacks than us.

5. Germans drink beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.

CONCLUSION: *Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you. .*

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