



MANAGING OUR WORSHIP SONG LIBRARY

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CONSIDERING SONGS FOR OUR REPERTOIRE

Got a song or hymn you love to sing in worship? I regularly get requests. In addition to individual song qualities, I find it both practical and pastoral to think intentionally about our overall repertoire of songs. Based on several factors, we may receive a new song, reject it, or defer it to be considered in the future. Receiving a song may be for a one-off use or slotting it into regular rotation. Rejecting it may be a judgement call on the song itself, or just that we already have other songs that are too similar. Here are some of my considerations for managing our worship song library:

- Individual song strength (see previous article)
- Song fit within the context of our current library
- Song fit for our music team to lead well
- Familiarity and singability in our congregation
- Song source

For our library we seek a general balance of the following:

- Perspective (I/me, we/us, and third person songs)
- Trinitarian (songs about the Father, Son, and Spirit)
- Type (hymns/songs, old/new, simple/complex)
- Mood (upbeat/mid/slow, joy/lament, major/minor)
- Theme (creation, thanksgiving, redemption, heaven, etc.)

CHOOSING SONGS FROM OUR REPERTOIRE

Core Repertoire (Use 1-2 songs from this column each week) - currently includes 42 staple songs like *All Creatures of Our God and King*, *Christ Our Hope in Life and Death*, *Jesus Your Mercy*, and *Who You Say I Am*)

Extended Repertoire (Use 1-2 songs from this column each week) - currently includes 49 well-loved songs like *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)*, *God Is For Us*, *This is Amazing Grace*, and *O Church Arise*.

Classic Repertoire (Use 1-2 songs from this column each week) - currently includes 74 time-tested songs like *Amazing Grace*, *How Great is Our God*, *It Is Well With My Soul*, and *Mighty To Save*.