



Redemption Music Auditions

Information You Need To Know

The purpose of music at Redemption

Redemption's bands seek to honor and uplift God, love others, and have a lifestyle of authentic worship (i.e. striving to live for Jesus in everything we do, every day and everywhere). We want to honor and glorify God by building bands of spiritually and musically committed people.

Read Acts 17:16-34

- Paul speaks in a familiar context and language the people of Athens can understand.
- We seek *respond* to God's salvation for a particular people, place and time.

Requirements to be in a band at Redemption

- You must have committed your life to Jesus and have responded to His grace through obedience via baptism by immersion.
- You must be a disciple of Jesus and seeking to grow more like Him each day.
- You must be a covenant partner of Redemption. You need to be committed to this community of believers and are actively participating in life at Redemption.
- You should have attended the Starting Point class and understand what this church teaches, believes and practices.
- You need to have an attitude of humility and the ability to submit to leadership.
- Musically, you need to possess musical skill and confidence to play/sing in a band. This isn't a talent competition, but you do need to be able to skillfully play and/or sing (Psalm 33:3) and have others be able to count on you to hold up your end of being in a band, musically and personally.
- If you are seeking to be a band leader, the qualifications you must meet are those of a deacon/deaconess as outlined in I Timothy 3:8-13.

Be prepared ...

- To hear constructive feedback. It will be loving but honest. We aren't here to do anything but serve Jesus and His church, but you need to be able to do the job well.
- To communicate well with the leader(s).
- To put in a lot of work on your part.
- For a several months-long training/learning process.
- To work hard & come to practice prepared (i.e. you'll need to do some homework) and not rely on natural skill to get you through.
- To use the Internet to gather necessary files (audio, lyrics/chord charts are all online). In all honesty, *if you can't do this*, you are going to be *very* frustrated in this endeavor.

Where do we go from here?

- Complete the necessary form and go through the audition process.
- Listen to constructive feedback.
- Practice, practice, practice until it's time to play/sing. When you begin to help lead music worship with a band will be determined by the music minister.

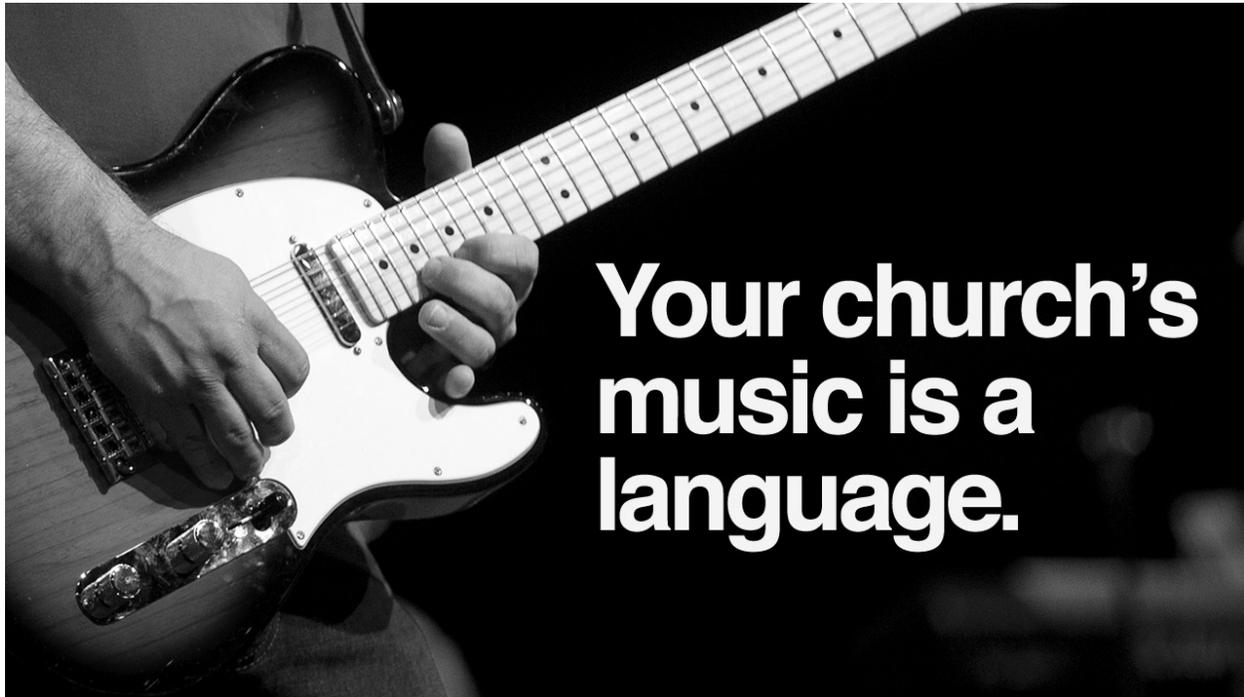


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Read Two Essays: Why We Do What We Do at Redemption

Your Church's Music Is A Language

By Daniel Ross Jasper, Ind.



When missionaries travel to a foreign land to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, one of the first things they do is learn the language of the region they are moving to. It's a rough road to communicate to people if you don't speak the same language. It's one of the consequences of the Tower of Babel incident.

Music is a powerful mode of communication. In nearly every church, there is music of one variety or another. However, do you realize music is a language through which you are conveying the gospel?

In Acts 17:16-34, Paul is standing in the midst of the Areopagus and notes the altar with the inscription 'to the unknown god.' He uses this as a jumping off point to tell the Athenians about the great gospel of God. God, who is perfect and holy came down to us in the person of Jesus. Je-

Jesus' perfect life, death, burial, and resurrection are the only hope we broken, sinful people have before God. Paul seizes the chance to preach using something the people understand.

Paul meets them where they are. The music in your church has the same effect.

I often tell people who are curious about the style of music in our church, "If you're going to Mexico to preach, you better speak Spanish." Just like Paul in Athens, proclamation of the good news should be in a familiar context and language the people can understand.

Who are the people in your culture you are trying to reach? What musical language do they speak? We should seek to respond to God's salvation for a particular people, place and time.

What does this mean and not mean, practically?

First, it does not mean simply badly covering songs in a service because they have some vague connection and will spark a connection of familiarity. Your church's band probably can't pull off that song by Coldplay without sounding like a third-rate bar band anyway. But, even if they can, what does this accomplish beyond an attempt to be seen as cool?

News flash: We aren't cool.

Secondly, it does not mean blindly importing even CCM songs into your services without thought to what your culture *is*, sonically speaking. Hillsong comes from Australia. Passion is coming out of Atlanta and other large metropolitan areas. The same with Jesus Culture, Bethel or any number of artists we are covering in church these days.

It does mean, though, after carefully parsing the words (the most important aspect of your church's music), finding a way to make it sound like something that's native to your land.

It does mean taking tried-and-true classic hymns and breathing new life into them by making them sound familiar to the people you are preaching to each week.

If you live in rural southern Indiana, as I do, you are likely surrounded by country and classic rock radio stations. You are less likely to have K-LOVE or The Fish or, possibly, even a modern rock or pop station.

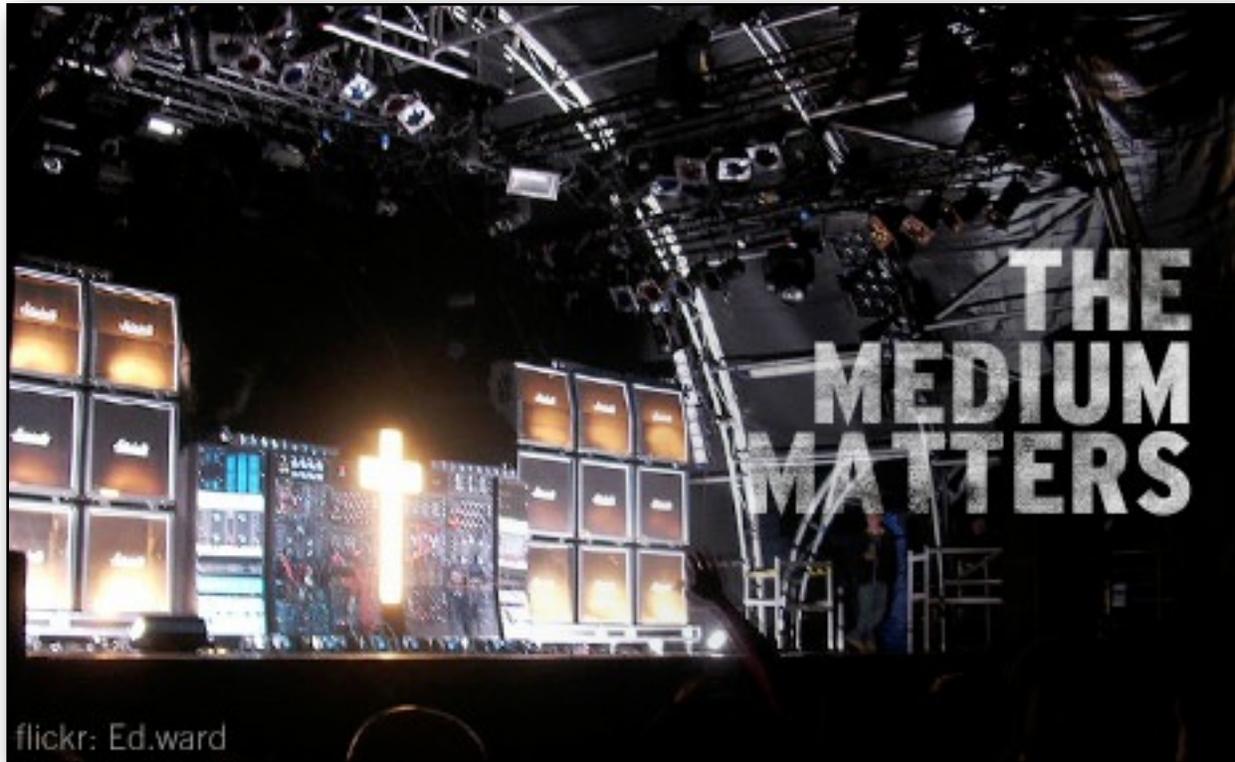
So, rather than copying note-for-note the Crowder or Chris Tomlin hit of the day by using loops on your MacBook and the well-worn dotted eighth-note delay, why not take the musical dialects the people in your church already speak and fit the songs within those contexts? If your culture speaks banjo, steel guitar, and fiddle, you're speaking a foreign tongue by copying "Mighty To Save" note-for-note and not using any of those elements.

Also, why not take a more "classic" song like "Because He Lives," strip away the southern gospel quartet feel of its inception in the 1970s, and, in its place, make it a classic rock power ballad (as big or small, sonically, as you want to push your people) if the people you are reaching and trying to reach speak the dialect of Lynnyrd Skynyrd?

The point is, your music speaks a language. Missionaries are much more effective speaking to people in a way they can understand it.

The Medium Matters: Is Music as Important as the Message?

By Joel Brown Seattle, Wash.



Don't Waste Your Music

Some Christians might argue that as long as gospel truths are present in the songs we sing together, our gathering has been a success. Helping our people see and respond to Jesus with biblically orthodox words is the *most* important factor in worship services, but **don't waste your music**.

God has made music a powerful tool. As a body of believers we can communicate, memorize, express, and emotionally connect with truth through music in ways that no other medium allows. When we see music in its proper place, our job as worship leaders and pastors becomes less about truth and good music being at odds with one another, and more about utilizing great music to highlight truth. Let me unpack this.

Style Polarizes a Crowd

If someone walks into your church service and hears your new pop-country band for the first time, I guarantee you they aren't paying attention to the words. They are either thinking about how much they hate the music or how much they love it. Music is not a neutral tool. It polarizes a crowd. People draw much of their cultural identity from the style of music they listen to.

Can Musicians Be Too Good?

Nothing is more distracting than the guy who wants all eyes on him, and not on Christ. The front man isn't the only worship leader on stage; the players are too. Our gatherings can't be a musician's competition between his glory and God's. We have one target in mind, and all band members should be shepherded to aim there together.

Don't Water It Down; Change It Up

Since stylistic choices and musicianship can be a distraction, the tendency in churches is to make worship music "broadly palatable." Watering the music down may remove a stumbling block to some, but it can also dilute the power of the medium. If we have to work in the confines of music and all the cultural *baggage* it brings, we must also take advantage of the cultural *benefits*. Keep in mind that there is diversity in the body of Christ (Rom. 12:4-5). Change it up from week to week. A good sign that you have the right balance of styles is if every congregant has one band they love and one band they hate. Seeking to find balance is our lot as worship leaders and pastors. One day we won't be distracted by musical style or sin, and every tribe, people, and language will come together (Rev. 7:9-10) singing praises to our Savior! This is a hope we look forward to. Until that day, we will make the most of this gift that God has given, using it as a tool to point to his unparalleled worth and glory.