

SONG CRITIQUE CHECKLIST

Krissy Nordhoff - From the book *WRITING WORSHIP: How To Write Heartfelt Songs for the Church*

TOP 10 CHARACTERISTICS OF WORSHIP SONGS

1. They are true and biblically accurate, because song teaches theology.
2. Usually they use a community voice.
3. They have a simple, memorable melody/lyric.
4. They stay close to an octave in range.
5. There's some sense of familiar of the church from the past.
6. They always contain resolution/redemption thematically.
7. They show a greater picture.
8. They tell the story of the gospel.
9. They call us to respond or call us to action of some sort.
10. They remind us of what's to come!

SONG MAPPING

Make sure that all ideas support one central idea very clearly.

- Verses: Reasons, feelings, explanations, lists, details
- Chorus: Big idea, title, the why, where, who or what answer to the verses
- Bridge: Why else with a twist, gives a deeper meaning to the chorus
- Pre-chorus: A connecting piece, adds smoothness either lyrically or musically between what is presented in verse and chorus.

LYRICAL TOOLS

- Alliteration
- Internal rhyme
- Near rhyme
- Imagery
- Simile
- Personification
- Metaphor
- Hyperbole

MUSICAL TOOLS

- Prosody
- Repetition
- Meter
- Drone

IMPACT TOOLS

- Contrast
- Space
- Snowball
- Suspense
- Octave punch

PITFALLS TO BE AWARE OF

- Syllable Emphasis
- Syllable Count
- Inversion
- Tense

SONG CRITIQUING QUESTIONS

To begin critiquing one of your songs, you would want to print out a lyric sheet and have the recording handy. Then, you would go through your song one section at a time while referencing this list. As you do, you will just want to be open to what you may find. Be willing to see discrepancies. Ask yourself questions, like these:

- Is my song Biblically true?
- What other characteristics of worship songs does my song have?
- Did I stay on track with my song map?
- What type of rhyme did I use?
- Did I use any imagery?
- Can I see any other lyrical tools?
- Did I use prosody in my song?
- What other melodic tools did I use?
- Did I follow the snowball technique?
- What other impact tools did I use?
- Do all my syllables have the correct emphasis?
- Was I careful not to use inversion?
- Was I consistent with the tense?