

HOW TO INTRODUCE A NEW SONG

Introducing new songs can be a challenging task. Understanding your congregation's needs and putting them first as a servant leader needs to be your primary concern when introducing new music. A new song doesn't just have to be a song written recently. It could be an older song that is new to you or one you haven't tried before. You need to be sure that when introducing new songs you are not confusing new music with a new *style* of music.

Scripture implores us -

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvellous deeds among all peoples.

Psalm 96 : 1-3 NIV

The point is not to sing new songs just for the sake of it.

New songs, new worship, should be a response to the "marvellous deeds" that God is doing "among all peoples" "day after day." It is your responsibility as a worship leader to share that response with your congregation as you present new music.

Only introduce one new song at a time to avoid overwhelming the congregation.

Use a new song at a time when the congregation isn't singing (during the offertory, prelude or as a choir selection) so that they can hear the song.

Introduce a portion of the song. Sing the chorus one week and then bring in the verses later so that there is something familiar about the song.

Repeat sections of the song. Repeating a verse can help the congregation learn the melody before moving on to another section.

Slow the tempo of the song so that people can grasp the rhythm and melodic line.

You may need to simplify some of the rhythms if the congregation is having trouble fitting in the lyrics.

Print or project the music for your congregation. Those who read music will help others to learn the song more quickly.

Explain to your congregation why you chose this song for them. Talk about the message of the song.

Surround new music with familiar pieces. People are more inclined to sing out if it is a song they know.

Be aware of your congregation's posture as they learn a new song. They may be more comfortable sitting while they are singing something unfamiliar.

Once you've introduced a new song and your congregation is comfortable with it, don't forget about it. This doesn't mean you should sing it every Sunday. However, if it remains unused for months at a time, it will be like teaching a new song all over again when you revisit it.

Sometimes, a piece of music just doesn't work with your congregation for any number of reasons. Let it go. It's okay. There is a lot of music out there. You just need to find what it is your congregation needs.