Creating a Setlist

Here at Community of Faith, we get to make decisions as one church with five locations. The purpose of the Master Song List is to keep a unified worship experience across all campuses. We are *one church* worshipping with *one voice,* and the MSL (*Master Song List*) supports the unity we get to foster in each of our campuses.

At Community of Faith, we build our setlist for our Sunday Morning Worship Experience from our MSL. Exceptions include:

- Tags
- COF Original Songs
- Special songs requested by your Campus Pastor

1. The Opener

To Set the Tone of the morning, start with energy. The MSL songs are rated 1-5 based on energy level – 1 being slow and 5 being fast. *Aim for a '3-5' on the 5-point scale to open your set.* Avoid "sluggish" starts. Be creative with your openers, especially with a 3 or 4. Example: Play the progression of the chorus of "Who Else" before the first verse to open a set with a bigger sound than just playing the original arrangement.

2. The Flow/Dynamics

Plan your set as one continuous worship journey rather than a collection of "starts and stops." Consider how song keys, tempos, themes, and moods flow together, and rehearse transitions carefully. Be intentional with pauses and breaks. Think through the dynamics of your set, creating a balanced flow of highs and lows rather than staying too intense or too mellow for too long. Aim for a 20min set on Sundays.

Consider the 70-30 Rule when introducing a new song: At least 70% of the set should be songs that your campus knows and can engage with. 30% may be newer songs - all from the Master Setlist.

When tagging a song off of another, link them through common theological or spiritual themes. The two effective places to put a tag into a set is to do something soft and intimate after finishing a song (a hymn/throwback), or something dramatic and triumphant on the back of a song.

3. Your Team Matters

Know who they are and know their skill level. Pick and arrange songs in a way that capitalizes on their strengths and minimizes weaknesses.

Circles of Fifths

- The circle of fifths is a helpful tool you can use while thinking through transitions.
- Example: If your song is in the key of C, the keys to transition to smoothly would be the two to the left and the two to the right of C. Choosing any other key to transition out of C will require more intentionality to get to.
- This goes for any key. Take the key of B: your safe transition keys are Gb, Db, E, and A (the two to the left and the two to the right).

