

THE ULTIMATE SETLIST BUILDING GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Imagine leading a congregation in worship that's fully engaged from the start. That's the goal of every worship set, but why is getting everyone to engage with the presence of God such a struggle?

Believe it or not, our setlist has a powerful impact. The order in which we introduce concepts and dynamics will either draw the listener into engagement or push them away.

In this setlist building guide, you'll learn how to build a set that not only recognizes our earthly reality but draws us firmly into engaging with Christ's. There's nothing magical or super-holy about it, it just recognizes how God made us.

Sometimes we can be confronted with the majesty of God and not be in a place to engage it. Our job as worship leaders is to help our congregation reach that place of encounter.

In this guide, we're going to take a journey through a basic 5-song setlist. Unlike other approaches that organize sets around themes or styles, we are going to organize our set like an album. Each song has a purpose and serves to set up the next one. To do this, we are going to make our choices based on dynamic range which allows us to use any theme or style and still keep the engagement level high.

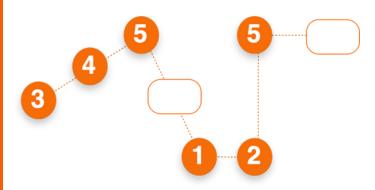
UNDERSTANDING DYNAMIC

Dynamic range is the overall intensity level of a song. An intensity level of "1" is going to start low and stay low. A "5" is going to go through the roof while a 2-4 falls somewhere in-between.

Dynamic range can be related to tempo, but it isn't defined by it. For example, a 5 can be a pounding dance number or it can be a song that builds in the bridge. Even though there is usually a shifting range within any song, we are applying a single number to each.



When it's all said and done, your set will look something like this.



Remember - Kristian Stanfill / The Rock Won't Move - Ver God of Wonders-Paul Baloche River - Jesus Culture / Jesus Messiah - Chris Tomlin / Doxology (Amen) - Phil Wickham / Hos. God of Wonders - Paul Baloche Lincoln Brewster / I

1000 Tongues - Vertica Move - 7 Stories Down Stevenson / There Is Polinside Out - Hillsong Un Glory - Bethel Music / I King of Love - I Am Th Hillsong Young and Fre-Lord - Rend Collective Crowder / My Victory -/ Happy Day - Tim Hugh New Life Worship / Sin Song - Kari Johe / Haye

Song 1 - The Opener

The first song is a focus-shifter-it lets everyone know you are starting. Most people are still finishing up their conversations or dropping their kids off at childcare. It's a mistake to expect anyone to really engage here. The first song is simply a "we're starting now" message.

A medium tempo "3" is a perfect choice-not too mellow, but still gives you room to build.

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How He Loves - David
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Worship / Great I Am at Worship / Revelation
To The Altar - Elevation

Lands To The Heavens - Kari Jobe / Unstoppable God - Elevation 10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord) - Matt F Worship / Endless Praise - Pla Day /Open Up The Heavens - Vertical Church Band / The King - Hillsong Worship / Good Good Father astasis) - Hillsong Worship / Cornerstone- • Nhere My Feet May Fail) -Hillsong United / ring Grace 🌳hil Wickham /This I Believe It Is Well - Bethel Music / Love Come (The Creed) - H g Worship / What A Beautiful Name -Alone -Kristian - Jesus Culture lickham / Hos. God of Wonders - Paul **Baloche Lincoln Bi** Christ - Sidewalk Prophets / One True God - Steven Curtis Chap Chris Tomlin / King Of My Heart - John Mark Macmillan / God Is On 1 en Daigle / Chain Breaker - Zach Williams / Eye Of The Storm - Ryan Steven ster / The Heart O- God is Able - Hillsong Worship / Natale Grant / From The Inside Out Resurrecting - Elevation Worship / 1000 Tongues - Vertical Shurch Band / Glory To Glory - Bethel Music / King Of Love - I Am They / Your Love Never Fails - Jesus Culture / All The

Williams / Eye Of The Storm - Ryar ant / From The Inside Out - Hillsong Worship / Resurrecting - Elevation V esus Culture / All The Poor And Powerless To Glory - Bethel Musi Hillsong Worship / Mighty 🛂 😂 ave -Hillsong Young an / Forever Raiger - Une Sonic Society hlin / Come Thou Fount Come Thou hip / You Make Me Brave – Bethel Daughters / Lam Hillsong Young And is - Bethel Worship / Endless Praise -Plantetshakers / Ma Our God - Chris Tomlin / and Daughters / God And God Alone - Chris e Lord) - Matt Redman / Hands To The Heavens Tomlin / Salvation's Tide - K - Kari Jobe / Unstoppable God - En se - Planetshakers / Soul On Fire - Third Day /Open Up The Heavens - Vertical Church Band / Ever be better Music / Holy Spirit - Fransesca Batistelli / Born Is The King -

Feet May Fall) - Hillsong United / Grace - Phil Wickham /This I Belie Well - Bethel Music / Love Come D Living God - Vertical Church Band Place - Red Rocks Worship / Wh Baloche / Great Are You Lord - All

Builder

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Nothing feels more wrong than flatlining or dropping the dynamic after the first song. It's time to build momentum so take Song #2 up a notch.

Song 2 - The Momentum

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Daughters / God And God Alone - Chris Tomlin / Salvation's Tide - Kristian Stanfill / 10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord) - Matt Redman / Hands To The Heavens - Kari Jobe / Unstoppable God - Elevation Worship / Endless Praise - Planetshakers / Soul On Fire - Third Day /Open Up The Heavens - Vertical Church Band / Ever Be - Bethel Music / Holy Spirit - Fransesca Batistelli / Born Is The King - Hillsong Worship / Good Good Father - Chris Tomlin / Lord I Need You - Matt Maher / O Praise The Name (Anastasis) - Hillsong Worship / Cornerstone - Hillsong Worship / Grace That Won't Let Go - Gateway Worship / Oceans (Where My Feet May Fail) - Hillsong United / Restore My Soul - Vertical Church Band / Forever - Chris Tomlin / This Is Amazing Grace - Phil Wickham /This I Believe (The Creed) - Hillsong Worship / At The Cross (Love Ran Red) - Chris Tomlin / It Is Well - Bethel Music / Love Come Down Once And For All The Same Love

Alive In You - Jesus Culture / Let There Be Light - Hillsong Worship / What A Beautiful Name - Hillsong Worship / In Christ Alone -Kristian Stanfill / Remember - Kristian St Vertical Church In The River -Jesus Culture / Jesus Messiah - Chris Tomlin Daughters / To Live Is Christ - Sidewalk Pro Congues - Vertical Stories Down / Trust In You - Lauren Daigle / Chain Bre The Lamb -Bethel Music - Real Love - Hillsong Yo Worship / Mighty To Save - Hillsong V Forever Reign One Sonic Society / Hov Our God - Chris Tomlin / Come Thou Fount Come Thou King Rend Collective / God With Us - Hillsong Work Free / Death Was Arrested - North Point Worsh Bethel Worship / You Make Me Brave - Bethel Worship / O Come To The An nall I Fear (God of Angel Armies) -You Lord - All Sons And Daughters / Lamb Of God - Vertical

The Heave Day /Oper The King (Anastasi Oceans (V This Is An Chris Tom Fearless S Redman / Worship / - Elevation Worship /

Song 3 - Celebrate

Your third song should max out the set at a dynamic level of 5. You've built momentum and should have an engaged congregation, which is important when moving into a resting moment.

Give it your all on this one! It will signal celebration and that this leg of the journey is over. A quiet moment (song 4) won't go as well if you haven't spent your energy first.

e - Planetshakers / Soul On Fire - Third ly Spirit - Fransesca Batistelli / Born Is 'ou - Matt Maher / O Praise The Name at Won't Let Go - Gateway Worship / Church Band / Forever - Chris Tomlin / orship / At The Cross (Love Ran Red) e Same Love Made Alive God My Rock Tomlin / It Is Well With My Soul - Matt 'he Fathers Love For Us - Austin Stone f Sorrows - Hillsong Worship / Fullness Culture / Let There Be Light - Hillsong Stanfill / Remember - Kristian Stanfill /

- Phil Wickham / Hosanna - Paul Baloche / Everlasting God - Lincoln Brew / Fullness - Elevation Worship Your Grace Is Enough - Chris Tomlin / Alive In You - Jesus Culture / Let There Be Light - Hillsong Worship / What A Beautiful Name - Hillsong Worship / In Christ Alone -Kristian Stanfill / Remember - Kristian Stanfill / The Rock Won't Move - Vertical Church In The River - Jesus Culture / Jesus Messiah - Chris Tomlin / Doxology (Amen) - Phil Wickham / Hosanna - Paul Baloche / Everlasting God - Lincoln Brew / Your Love Awakens Me Phil Wickham coln Brewster / I Surrender - All Sons And Daughters / To Live Is Christ - Sidewalk Prophets / One True God - Steven Curtis Chapman / 1000 Tongues - Vertical Church Band / Jesus - Chris Tomlin / King Of My Heart - John Mark Macmillan / God Is On The Move - 7 Stories Down / Trust In You - Lauren Daigle / Chain Breaker - Zach Williams / Eve Of The Storm - Rvan Stevenson / There Is

CREATE A MOMENT

Once you've built up energy, gratitude, enjoyment, and trust, pause a moment and take in your surroundings. In this atmosphere, hearts are open and we begin to recognize God is with us. You could go directly into an intimate song, but this moment is an opportunity to set up the next leg of the journey.

In this moment you could share a personal story from the week, or open the floor for some public prayer. You could even put a reading on the screen or share the story behind the next song you are about to sing. Doing something outside of music creates something memorable and reaches a hand out to those who don't connect with God in a musical way. It also has the added benefit of making the return to music more refreshing.

Alive In You - Jesus Culture / Let There Be Light - Hillsong Worship / What A Beautiful Name - Hillsong Worship / In Christ Alone - Kristian Stanfill / Remember - Kristian Stanfill / How He Loves - David Crowder Church Band / In The River - Jesus Culture / Jesus Messiah - Chris Tomlin / Doxology (Amen) - Phil Wickham / Hosanna - Paul Baloche / Everlasting God - Lincoln Brewster / I Surrender - All Sons And Daughters / To Live Is Christ - Sidewalk Prophets / One True God - Steven Curtis Chapman / 1000 Tongues - Vertical Church Band / Jesus - Chris Tomlin / King Of My Heart - John Mark Macmillan / God Is On The Move - 7 Stories Down / Trust In You - Lauren Daigle / Chain Breaker - Zach Williams / Eye Of The Storm - Ryan Stevenson / There Is Power - Lincoln Brewster / The Heart Of Worship - Matt Redman / Sound Of The Saints - Newsboys / Clean - Natalie Grant / From The Inside Out - Hillsong Worship / Resurrecting - Elevation Worship / Come Alive (Dry Bones) - Lauren Daigle / Jesus Paid It All - Kristian Stanfill / Glory To Glory - Bethel Music / King Of Love - I Am They / Your Love Never Fails - Jesus Culture / All The Poor And Powerless - All Sons And Daughters / Here As In Heaven - Elevation Worship / Lion And The Lamb - Bethel Music - Real Love - Hillsong Young and Free / Your Love Awakens Me - Phil Wickham / God Is Ald - Lilleges Microbin / Save -

/ How He Loves - David Crowder / My Victory - David Crowder / King - Gateway Worship / Happy Day - Tim Hughes / Build Y Hillsong Worship / Great I Am - New Life Worship / Sinking Do North Point Worship / Revelation Song - Kari Jobe / Have It All - / O Come To The Altar - Elevation Worship / Same Power - Paul I Lamb Of God - Vertical Church Band / Whom Shall I Fear (God of And Free / Abide With Me - Matt Redman / One Thing Remains Made New - Lincoln Brewster / Amazing Grace (My Chains Ar Tomlin / Fierce - Jesus Culture / We Are Waiting - All Sons Salvation's Tide - Kristian Stanfill / 10,000 Reasons (Bless Th Jobe / Unstoppable God - Elevation Worship / Endless Praise - Heavens - Vertical Church Band / Ever Be - Bethel Music / Holys

Song 4 - Quiet

After being at a 5 with song 3, we drop down to a 1. We get to listen, we get to linger, and we get to see and hear with our hearts. This is what worship it's all about.

Stay here as long as you can and fight the urge to build your song (or songs)-practice patience. Choose songs with lyrical depth and gentle intensity. Don't fear the silence.

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Worship / In Christ Alone - O Baloche / Everla Light - Hills To Sa Fount C **God With Bethel Worship** And Daughters / Lams Plantetshakers / Made Ne Tomlin / Salvation's Tide - K - Kari Jobe / Unstoppable God Hillsong Worship / Cornerstone Grace - Phil Wickham /This I Belie Worship / Same Power - Paul Baloche **Great Are You Lord**

10,000 Reasons (Bless

Ever Be - Bethel Music / Hol

Sons And Daughters / To Live Is Christ - S Let There Be <u>- Lauren Daigle / Jesus Paid It All - Kristian</u> nking Deep - Hillsong Young And Free / Death Was same Power - Paul Baloche / Great Are You Lord - All Sons whom Shall I Fear (God of Angel Armies) - Chris Tomlin / Wake -

et May Fail - Hillsong United/ The Rock Won't Move - Vertical Church

Song 5 - Lights Up

It can be jarring to move from an intimate time of worship into a sermon. Try finishing the set with a song that starts at a 1 but ends at a 5. It's like slowly bringing the lights up rather than turning them on.

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It's also a great way to put an exclamation point on a set and celebrate the connection we've made with our Creator. If done well, there is one more moment to be had.

Batistelli / Born Is The King - Hillsong Worship / Good Good Father -Chris Tomlin / Lord | Need You - mare maner / O Praise The Name (Anastasis) - Hillsong Worship / Cornerstone -

THE TOGETHER MOMENT

Gathering to worship reminds us that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. After taking this journey together, finish your set with a "together" moment. Sing an acapella chorus or read a passage of scripture out loud. This moment can be anything that'll cause everyone to open their eyes, and appreciate the beauty and holiness of the experience just had.

This together moment is the exclamation point on the set and will often be the most memorable part of a gathering.

ONE MORE THING

BE AN ARTIST

Now it's time to get creative. This setlist guide gives you the colors, but you paint the picture. No one knows your community as you do, so design your sets to serve them.

As you use this guide to plan some of your upcoming sets, we would like to invite you to try Worship Artistry. You'll find in-depth song tutorials for your whole band (including chord charts and sheet music!). We exist to help musicians of every level answer the call to worship with passion and confidence.

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