

# New Songs

Hi Team,

I appreciate the song suggestions some of you have given me - please keep them coming! I enjoy finding good songs, and love seeing the congregation learn them, too.

Please don't take it personally if we don't end up doing a song you suggest.

Here are some things I try to think about when considering a new song:

1. Do the words focus on Christ and the gospel, or at least on God?
2. Are the lyrics biblical, clear, relevant, beautiful, and worth repeating?
3. Is the vocal range narrow enough - primarily within one octave?
4. Is the melody pleasant, easy to learn, and well-matched to the words?
5. Is the structure logical, with appropriate repetition and symmetry?
6. Is the style appropriate and relevant for the group and the occasion?
7. Is our worship team able to recreate this song's necessary elements?
8. Is the song's overall quality at least as good as songs we already do?

New is not necessarily better, but neither is old. I try to picture our worship team leading this song and our congregation singing it.

I see lots of great thoughts online – these make for good reading:

<http://www.davidsantistevan.com/choosing-songs/> (< I like this one best)

<https://www.allaboutworship.com/blog/10-tips-for-choosing-worship-songs>

<https://singingandslaying.com/2016/07/07/six-criteria-for-judging-worship-music/>

<https://briantabor.org/2016/04/07/should-we-sing-that-picking-songs-for-corporate-worship/>

<http://www.robstill.com/7-strategic-guidelines-for-choosing-new-worship-songs/>

I'm interested in hearing your thoughts on this. Thanks for your suggestions!

Matt