

Worship Ministries Use of Evidence of Student Learning

Worship Ministries received feedback from camp directors at their annual regional meeting that one of the "need" areas in their camps was in the area of media. The music quality of the teams was excellent but the media, though being built and formatted by a PLNU team member, was being operated by whatever volunteer at the camp could be found each evening. As such, we restructured the team, reducing the instrumentation in the team by one vocalist and creating a media-tech position. As such, camp needs have been met without budget restructure or increase in team size.

Extensive work has been done to train the students in evaluating music for both musical and theological content. This was begun in 2005-06 and has continued annually as a part of the training of worship leaders. This can be seen in the Strategic Plan report for 2005-06 (attached) and in the new assessment tool for worship ministry interns.

Worship Ministries Music Evaluation Information

Spiritual Development Planning Goal #5 2005-2006

1. *What is a visionary goal that your unit set?*

To work with the Chapel Band Worship Leaders to theologically and musically evaluate the songs being used in chapel.

2. *What information and data did you use to set this goal?*

- A New Director of Worship Ministries arrived at PLNU in the fall of 2005. A review of many aspects of worship at PLNU is being conducted in preparation for planning for the future.
- There has been a desire to broaden and deepen the skills of the worship band leaders. Part of their formation as leaders is to teach them to assess the theological soundness of songs before they are used in a worship setting.

3. *What actions did you take to try to reach this goal?*

- A list of all of the songs used in worship at PLNU during the 2004-05 academic year was compiled (see Appendix 1 for the list of songs).
- The worship band leaders met with the Director of Worship Ministries and over the course of several meetings evaluated the lyrical and musical content of each song.
 - Individual songs were evaluated on the follow basis:
 - Are the words theologically sound?
 - Are there certain lines/words in the song that have a powerful yet perhaps confusing thought? If so, how could a worship leader provide some insight/context/scripture reference to help engage the mind of the worshipper in the truth of the words?
 - Is the song appropriate musically for the worship setting, in particular is the tune “singable” for the congregation?

Songs that clearly failed the first test were removed from the play list. The other tests provided great discussion and encouraged the students to ponder these issues before including a song in a worship time.

- The play list was evaluated using the following questions.
 - Does the song use communal or individualistic language?
 - Is the speaking about God or is it directly addressed to God?
 - Does the song lean more towards praise or petition?

After identifying which categories a song fell in the students were encouraged to consider a balance in any given music set. If a given category had an over abundance of songs, the students evaluated which one were stronger lyrically and musically. Those were kept on the play list for the year and the others retired. Also, songs that had been over exposed in the 2004-2005 year were retired for the year.

4. *What progress did you make?*

- The play list has been modified with some songs being removed and others retired.
- A new protocol has been created for the addition of songs to the play list. Every several weeks the worship band leaders meet with the Director of Worship Ministries using the criteria described in the answer to question #3 to evaluate new music that has been proposed as additions to the play list.
- The worship band leaders are gaining skill in evaluating the suitability of music for worship using both theological and musical criteria.

5. *What information and data did you use to evaluate your progress?*

At the end of the 2005-06 academic year a series of interviews with the worship band leaders will be conducted to assess their growth and to evaluate the process.

Supporting Documentation:

Play list and the result of the evaluation process

Appendix 1
Play List for 2004-05

Hymns

All Creatures of Our God and King
Amazing Grace
Be Thou My Vision
Come Thou Fount
Doxology
Great is Thy Faithfulness
Hallelujah, What a Savior!
How Great Thou Art
I'd Rather Have Jesus
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Nothing But the Blood
Solid Rock, The
Wonderful Cross, The

Choruses

Agnus Dei
Arms of Love
As the Deer
Beautiful One
Come and Be
Create
Dwell
Empty Me
Enough
Facedown
Famous One
Forever
Forever I Will Sing of Your Great Love
From the Ends of the Earth
Give us Clean Hands
Grace Flows Down
Hallelujah
He Knows My Name
Here I am to Worship
His Banner Over Me is Love
How Deep the Father's Love for Us
How Good and Pleasant it is
House of the Lord
Humble King
Humble me
Hungry
I Can Only Imagine
I Cannot Hide My Love
I Cry Out
I Give You My Heart
I Will Not Be Silent
I Will Offer Up My Life
I Will Trust in You

I'll Always Love You
In the Secret
Jesus, Lover of My Soul
King of Glory
Lord, I Want to Praise You
Lord, Let Your Glory Fall
Lord, You Have My Heart
Love Song
Meet With Me
More
Mourning into Dancing
Much
My Glorious
My Redeemer Lives
Never Gonna Stop
Not to Us
O Lord, You're Beautiful
O Praise Him
One Body, One Spirit
Once Again
Only You
Overwhelmed
Rescue
Reign in Me Again
Revelation
See How Mercy
Surrender
Sustained
Take My Life (Holiness)
There is Joy in the Lord
'Til the Answer Comes
We Are Hungry
We Will Seek You First, Lord
When it's All Been Said and Done
You Alone
You Alone are Worthy of My Praise
You Are My King
You Are So Beautiful
You Have Always Been There
Your Love, O Lord
Your Love is Extravagant
Your Name is Holy

Retired

All Who Are Thirsty
Ancient of Days *
Be Glorified *
Better is One Day *
Blessed Be Your Name *
Come, Now is the Time to Worship *
Exalt The Lord
Free to Reign
God is Great
God of Wonders *
I Look Upon Your Hill
I Wait For the Lord
I'm not Ashamed
Jesus, Lead On *
Open Skies
Open the Eyes *

* retired for the year primarily due to over use in recent years

Songs used before but not in 04-05

Let Everything that Has Breath
Let My Words Be Few
Wonderful Maker
Indescribable
Instrument for Noble Purpose
Justice and Mercy
May the Words of My Mouth
Music to the Lord
Our Heart
Reflection
We Lift You High
Words that You Say, The
You Whisper Love
Your Grace is Enough

New Additions for 2005-2006

Be Near

Dancing Generation

Give Me Jesus

Here I Stand

How Great is Our God

If I Have Not Love

Indescribable

Instrument for Noble Purpose

Justice and Mercy

May the Words of My Mouth

Music to the Lord

Our Heart

Our Love is Loud

Reflection

We Lift You High

Words that You Say, The

You Whisper Love

Your Grace is Enough