

The Anatomy of a Song

How a song is expressed is based on:

- The individual person
- Talent
- Musical influences
- Audience
- What instrument an individual plays
- How many instruments you have in the band
- What kind of instruments might be in the band
- The other musicians and their individual talents

Basic elements remain standard in song arrangements:

1. Personality
2. Tempo
3. Dynamics
4. Style

1. **Personality** – It is not our job to give a song personality, but to find the personality of the song and express it.
 - a. The writer wrote the song with a purpose, with a focus, we should remain as true to that as we can.
2. **Tempo** – The lyrics determine the Tempo of the song in two ways:
 - a. The theme of the song
 - b. The rhythm of the lyrics
3. **Dynamics**
 - a. How does the song flow?
 - b. How does it start?
 - c. How will it end?
 - d. How will the song climax?
 - e. How will the instruments work together to make all this happen?
 - f. Where does spontaneity fit into all of this?
 - g. What tools do we have to bring dynamics to our songs:
 - Key changes
 - Instruments
 - Harmonies
 - Changes in Rhythm
 - Vocal solos
 - Accapella parts
 - Color chords
4. **Style**
 - In “worship” music, the emphasis is the lyrics, words about God, our response to God. Our arrangements need to package those lyrics in such a way that they are understood and are used to glorify God.