MAKING THE MOST OF THE MODERN WORSHIP MOVEMENT
Bob Kauflin

I. Introduction

II. Our Goal
   A. Define
   B. Discerns
   C. Devote

III. What is a Worship Song?
   A. Any song can be a worship song, if it is written or performed for the glory of God, or listened to for the purpose of exalting God.
   B. Good worship songs have certain characteristics which enable God’s people to worship Him.
      1. The lyrics of a worship song should be clearly related to biblical truth and a scriptural worldview. It should contain some aspect of who God is and/or who we are in Christ, and it should be expressed in a way that everyone can understand.
      2. Worship songs should be singable.
      3. Worship songs intentionally and successfully exalt God over against our own creativity. While we want always to be seeking fresh ways of communicating eternal truths, “there is a level beyond which literature cannot rise if it is to be good hymnody. (Erik Routley, respected hymnologist from the last century)

IV. The Pluses of the Worship Movement
   A. A God-focused emphasis within the Christian music industry.
   B. More people seeking to encounter and exalt God as they listen to Christian music.
C. Enlarging the repertoire of songs that magnify the greatness of God.

D. Revitalization of worship services

E. More teaching on worship

F. Expressions of unity

G. More styles of music being used to praise God

H. Financial provision for those who write worship songs

I. People responding in faith to the God who is being worshipped by so many.

V. The Concerns

A. We can tend to think that worship is equivalent to music.

B. We can tend to think that because we listen to worship music, we must be worshippers.

C. There can be a temptation to think that worship is somehow “new” or has finally become “genuine.”

D. Many songs focus almost exclusively on the subjective side of our relationship with God.

E. Musicians can become our primary theologians.

VI. How Do We Benefit?

A. Be discerning and humble about songs that are current.

B. Value the role of the worship leader in your local church.

C. Use modern offerings to expand rather than replace hymns.

D. Use new songs and arrangements to help your church grow in expressiveness and passion for God.

E. Encourage the writing of songs that contain objective truth about God and the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.
VII. The Priority of The Local Church

A. The plight of the aspiring 17 year old Christian worship song writer.

B. Worship songs aren’t written to be performed on a stage, but to be sung by God’s people. Jesus didn’t come to establish a worship music industry. He came to build a church.

C. Songwriters could serve local pastors.

D. How DO I get my worship songs out to others?
   1. Make sure you’re committed to your local church and your pastor.
   2. Ask others for observations about your life.
   3. Practice the spiritual disciplines faithfully.
   4. Serve in whatever ways you can.
   5. Play your songs for people that you respect in your church, asking them for suggestions. Keep revising and improving your songs.
   6. Continue to serve the church God has placed you in. As you grow, God will bring the increase and fruit that He desires.

VIII. Resources

A. Sovereign Grace Music – www.sovgracemin.org/music

B. Worship Together - www.worshiptogether.com
   Includes CD’s by Stuart Townend, Chris Tomlin, Brian Doerksen, and many more. Offers downloadable sheet music.

C. GoldUsa – www.goldusa.com
   Hundreds of worship CD’s as well as printed music. Stoneleigh/Events NewSongs compilations are worth looking at.

D. www.acorndirect.co.uk
   Primarily British CD’s with no shipping costs.

E. Indelible Grace – www.igracemusic.com
   Two CD’s of updated hymns with a third one on the way.

F. Integrity Music – www.integritymusic.com
G. www.worshipmusic.com
   Broad selection of worship related materials and links
H. Vineyard – www.vineyardmusic.usa.com
I. www.grassrootsmusic.com