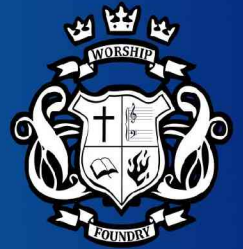




On The Anvil

The Worship Foundry Newsletter



IN THIS EDITION

Introducing The Worship Foundry - a new project starting in 2009

In The Studio - recording two new songs with Jono Moore

NeoPsalmist - software to assist worship musicians

Now Playing - recommended worship albums to add to your collection

Introducing The Foundry



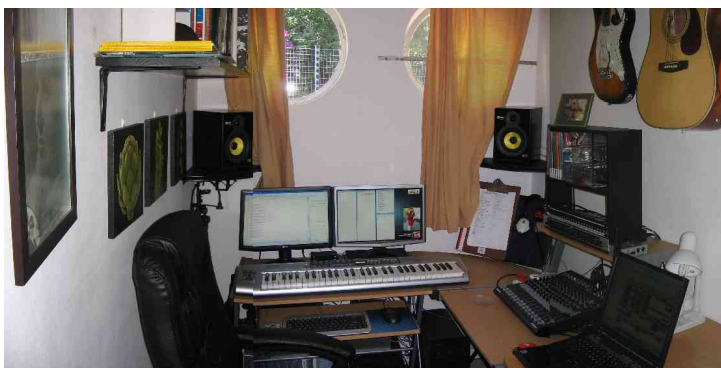
The Worship Foundry is the name given to a project launching this year. The initiative is a collection of activities grouped around a common vision:

To assist Christian musicians in growing their gifting as worship leaders, church musicians, and songwriters.

At the heart of the vision is the belief that we need to develop the musical gifts God has given us. This conviction has grown from the concept of a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline found in the apostle Paul's instructions in 2 Timothy 1:6-7:

- we can produce little of value without the **power** of the Holy Spirit
- at the core of our musical efforts is a **love** for God and those we serve
- growing our musical gifts requires **self-discipline** on our part

The Worship Foundry will work to encourage the church to worship God with increasing depth, so that God's people are inspired to reach out to the world in love, service, and compassion.



Most of the work involved in the Worship Foundry will be done in my little home studio. I'll be putting together this newsletter periodically to provide those interested with updates on the project.

Most information, including editions of this newsletter, will soon become available online at

www.christ-church.org.za/worship-foundry

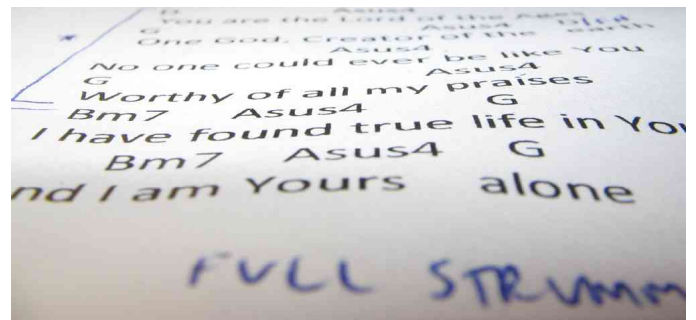
In The Studio



Jono Moore has served as a worship leader at Christ Church for many years, and has written some great worship songs. This month, recording work has begun on two of Jono's newest compositions. 'The first song, Awake In Your Salvation', centers around the theme of the cross, grace, and freedom from sin.

*I'm awake in Your salvation
Oh, Lamb of God,
You've set me free
Your grace has changed me,
my heart overflows
with love for You.*

The second song, 'I Will Follow', is a declaration of commitment to following Christ. The themes of surrender and perseverance come through strongly.



After recording the acoustic guitar tracks for both, we've added a rough vocal track (sometimes called a 'scratch' track). This mix will be used as a reference for the other instruments that are arranged in the song.

Timmy Price is currently working on the drum tracks for Jono's songs using his Roland TD-9 electronic kit. Timmy is a musician with whom I often played during my time



at St Martins Anglican Church Bergvliet, and is now the drummer for the local outfit The Louise Day Band.

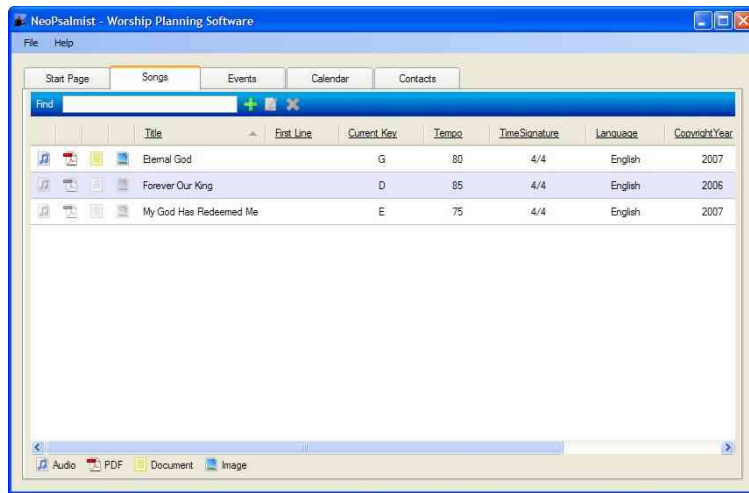
NeoPsalmist

Several years ago I wrote a database application to assist me in storing songs, creating and printing song lists, and transposing chord sheets to new key signatures. It was a great way to do something useful with my passion for information technology.



While I found the software tremendously useful, and still use it on a weekly basis, I never finished it beyond a basic level of functionality. On request, I have given copies to several musicians, most of whom have found it helpful, albeit a bit unstable.

While on leave in January I began work on a new version, one more suited to the needs of those who write songs, keep a database of music, prepare events, and lead teams of musicians.

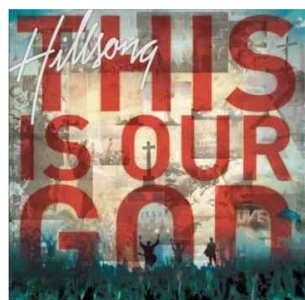


Anyone involved in software development will know the time involved in designing and building an application. Because I'd like to get the software out as soon as possible, I've split the planned features into basic ones released with the first version, and those that will be released with later updates.

Provided the software is not too large to download, it will become available on the Worship Foundry web page as soon as a release version is ready. I'll also be distributing it manually to people I think might find it a help in their ministry.



Now Playing



This Is Our God - Hillsong Live

Hillsong have been releasing worship albums for a long time, and there was a stage when I felt that their songs, while well written, were beginning to sound very similar.

'This Is Our God', brings something different to my ears, and I've been

listening to the album a great deal.

This is partly due to the songwriting ability of Brooke Fraser, who has joined ranks with the musicians involved in the live albums recorded each year.

One of her songs features as the third track, 'Desert Song', and ends with a hard-hitting reminder that Christian life is as much about giving as it is about receiving.

*This is my prayer in the harvest,
when favour and providence flow:
I know I'm filled to be emptied again,
the seed I've received I will sow.*

Sometimes the strength of a song is its ability to give worshipers a simple and profound truth to boldly sing out. 'Stronger', the seventh track does exactly that with its anthemic chorus:

*You are stronger, You are stronger
Sin is broken, You have saved me
It is written: "Christ is risen"
Jesus, you are Lord!*

In spite of the recent scandal around track eight, 'Healer' (the songwriter revealed publicly after the album release that he had been falsely claiming he had terminal cancer), I still find the song to be full of truth about God's healing power.

'You'll Come', track fourteen, is another great composition by Brooke Fraser, written about God's presence among us. The bridge of the song is a declaration of freedom and healing.

*Chains be broken, lives be healed,
eyes be opened, Christ is here.*

Let me encourage you to either start or expand your collection of worship music by picking up a copy at your local Christian music store, or purchase it online. The album is a great mix of worship songs, useful in both congregational and private worship settings.

ONE LAST THING...



I hope this edition has been interesting to read, and has given you a basic understanding of what The Worship Foundry is all about. If you can find the time to pray for the project, I'd appreciate it. Ask God for wisdom, energy, motivation, and creativity for everyone involved.

Have a great month, worship God in every moment.

Tim