

Preface

About This Book

“Classic & Contemporary Worship - Lead Sheet Collection”, is a compilation of 186 worship songs in lead sheet format from CCLI, in mostly alphabetical order. It includes a variety of traditional hymns, modern worship, and everything in between. A bonus collection of 20 popular Christmas hymns is also found towards the back cover.

This book is the modern-day equivalent of a hymn book, intended for musicians and worship leaders familiar with the lead sheet format. It is a curated collection of quality sheet music that is easy to flip through, represents popular and classic songs of the time, serves as a practice repertoire, and helps select and discover new music.

Format

This book’s unique format was designed to make the lives of musicians easier, and caters specifically to the needs of pianists. It’s oversized tabloid (11x17”) dimensions makes it possible to read up to 4 pages at a time without flipping pages mid-song, and the spiral-bound soft-cover design makes it easy to lay flat and flip through.

The lead sheet format is a hybrid between the 4-part harmony format used in hymn books, and chord charts popular with modern worship leaders. It is very versatile and great for creative improvisation, provides the melody line unlike chord charts, is easier to read than hymn books, and provides chords unlike most hymn books.

Most songs are printed in their original key, as published by the composer or hymn book. However, songs originally written in sharp or flat keys have been transposed down to the nearest natural key, to make them easier to play. A theory section containing all common chords in every key is included for learning and reference.

The Story

I first had the vision of publishing a book like this one in 2013, when I was part of a team responsible for publishing a revised worship lyrics book for my youth group. At the time I had started creating a chords book for musicians to accompany the new lyrics book, but without access to CCLI I was never able to complete it.

For many years I have been an occasional pianist at my church, and in early 2019 I was asked to lead a worship team at Bethel, and given access to CCLI. Since then I have maintained an organized collection of lead sheets for music that I have personally played and enjoyed, or that is familiar and popular at Bethel.

In March of 2020 I was laid off due to the pandemic and found myself with abundant free time, which I recognized as a blessing and rare opportunity to work on various projects, including making this dream into a reality. This book is the fruit of these efforts, and I hope that God will be glorified, and you will be blessed by it.

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