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BASS, DRUMS, AND LOOPS

I. Why incorporate loops in your band?

- A. Loops give you one more creative tool
- B. Loops can establish a groove or feel without overpowering the overall sound mix
- C. When done well, loops provide a feel that the drummer can play with and around
- D. They can immediately make an arrangement feel fresh and new

II. Why NOT to incorporate loops in your band

- A. It's the "cool" thing to do
- B. Thinking people can't worship unless we sound like Chris Tomlin or David Crowder
- C. You're getting bored with just drums and bass
- D. Because you went to a seminar about loops at the WorshipGod09 conference

III. Before you dive in, ask:

- A. Is the band leader on board?

Does he agree that using a DJ will serve him and his goals for the band at this time?
- B. Is the rest of the band on board?

Do they understand that they will need to adjust?
- C. Do we have someone with aptitude/gifting, and a desire to develop the skills involved?
- D. Can the drummer play to a click?
- E. Do we have the technical capacity to do it (monitors, inputs, knowledge)?

IV. Things to think through: The Player and The Tools

- A. Who should play/control the loops?
- B. What software/hardware should we use?
- C. What are some of the basics of making loops? (How do I get started?)

V. How to do it: The Mechanics

- A. What is our monitor situation?
- B. What click sound should we use?
- C. Who should hear the click?
- D. How do we start the song?
- E. How do we handle ritards or rubato sections?

VI. How do we build them into a song? Demonstration and Application.

- A. How do you build loops into a song?
 - 1. Are loops just like another member of the band?
 - 2. Should we work the loops into the arrangements spontaneously when we're rehearsing?
 - 3. What needs to change when loops are introduced? Hint: something DOES need to change.
- B. Helpful questions to ask:
 - 1. Is the loop a primary or secondary element of the arrangement?
 - 2. Does it contain a lot of high-end information or primarily low-end information?
 - 3. Is it busy or sparse? Is it providing the main subdivision of the beat?
 - 4. Does it potentially replace what would have been another band member's part on a given song?
 - 5. How does the loop change with the different sections of the song (verse, chorus, bridge, turnarounds), and how does that affect what everybody plays?

C. Suggestions for the drummer

1. Identify what “groove” the loops are playing vs. just trying to match the notes
2. Be aware of the tonal frequencies of the loop, and play accordingly
3. Think through what you can leave out

D. Suggestions for the bassist

1. Play in a higher or lower octave to stay out of the tonal range of the loop
2. Play staccato or legato to complement or contrast with the loop
3. Play a simple part (less notes) to complement a busier loop or vice versa
4. Play in lockstep with the main rhythmic impulse of the loop

VII. Time for Questions