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**ARRANGING SONGS FOR THE  
BASS & DRUMS: PART 1 & 2**

**I. Building a Song**

A. Introduction

1. There are a limited number of formulas when it comes to a 3:30-4 minute song. Lean into what works, we don't have to reinvent the wheel.
2. Congregational Participation is about creating expectation, reducing the amount of 'gotcha moments.'
3. Lyrical Considerations / Theme
4. Song Climax / Dynamics
5. BPM / Time Signature
6. Give sections of the song their own identity. "Play a part, not the chart"
7. Pick areas to lay out. It will make your entrance fresh and noticeable.
8. Listen to what is going on with the rest of the band.
  - a. What rhythms are being accentuated?
  - b. What is sounding, what is silent?

B. Verse 1

1. Groove Considerations
  - a. Working Backwards
  - b. Natural phrasing, Lyric spacing, Accents

- C. Pre-Chorus
  - 1. Distinction from verse and chorus
  - 2. Creating dynamic, or rhythmic anticipation for the chorus
  - 3. Filling to chorus, breaking, holding
  
- D. Chorus
  - 1. Driving
  - 2. Emptying/Laying Out
  - 3. Thinking ahead to future choruses.

## **II. Communication**

- A. Rhythm Section
  - 1. Who is leading the section?
  - 2. Knowing each others' strengths and weaknesses
  - 3. Knowing each others' "go-to" fills
  - 4. Writing and reading simple rhythmic figures

## **III. Resources**

- A. Books
- B. Albums
- C. Questions