

Lead Worshiper 101

Lesson 4: An Introduction To Platform Presence

What is Platform Presence?

Platform

A more common term you may hear in the performing arts world is “stage presence.”

We use the word “platform” over “stage” not for legalistic reasons, but because it reminds us what we’re up there to do:

We’ve got a message and mission and we use the platform to spread that. ***We worship God, and we help others worship God.***

From that platform, we get to worship God and proclaim his story and encourage the congregation to worship the Lord and celebrate his story.

Presence

Definition of *Presence*:

The ability to project a sense of ease, poise, or self-assurance, especially the quality or manner of a person’s bearing before an audience.

We don’t want to call the gathered body of believers an *audience*. But we are in front of people encouraging them to move beyond being spectators towards being active worshipers.

If we’re going to be on the platform as worship musicians, we need a sense of ease, poise, and self-assurance. Another word for that is **CONFIDENCE**.

A *lack of confidence* is **distracting** to the congregation. Confidence helps bring assurance to the congregation.

Good platform presence is something you can learn, just like playing your instrument.

Your personality and temperament is going to inform your expression and presence as you lead.

Why Platform Presence Matters

1. Triune Worship of Triune God

Music is something that connects a triune creature with it's Triune Creator.

God exists in Trinity—the Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit.

He created us in his image. We have body, soul and spirit.

- We have our physical bodies.
- Our soul is our emotions, mind and will.
- Our spirit is that eternal part of us that joins with the Holy Spirit.

When we worship through music, it engages...

- Our mind through the song.
- Our bodies through singing and clapping and other physical expressions.
- Our spirit who is joined with the Holy Spirit.

So we are triune creatures worshipping the Triune Creator.

Good platform presence is about modeling that whole-being worship.

2. We need to engage the people we're leading.

We aren't there to **entertain** people with our platform presence. But we are there to **engage** them, to **encourage** them and to **model** for them biblical worship.

Practical Tips

1. Preparation and confidence are HUGE.

If we don't prepare, there's no way we can be engaging on the platform.

2. Smile. Have your joyful heart inform your face.

Be conscious that sometimes the expressions we make on the platform aren't always inviting.

3. Avoid burying your head in your music stand or "zombie-staring" the stage display.

4. Avoid looking at your instrument the whole time.

5. Avoid closing your eyes too much.

This creates a barrier between you and the congregation, and it makes you seem like all you care about is your own experience.

6. Remove barriers. (Music stands, mics, pulpits, etc.)

7. Let song inform how you move and express.

8. Become a student of the Psalms.

We see so much depth of worship in the Psalm that goes beyond just singing praises to God. Psalms help to deepen us as worshipers.

Bottomline: Being a lead worshiper involves SO much more than singing or playing an instrument:

- We're creating a space for God and his people to meet.
- We're modeling biblical expressions of worship to the congregation we're serving.
- We're visually leading them, and not musically leading them.