

# A NEW SONG



Designed to encourage The Salvation Army to sing a new song.

## WAVES (You are a mighty river)

ARTIST	Worship Central
YEAR	2017
ORIGINAL KEY	C
TIME SIGNATURE	4/4
THEME	Peace/Hope

## WHAT'S THE SONG ABOUT

Some songs explore a particular theological idea, or express a personal response to God. This song encourages you to dwell in God's presence, and be still.

We are all familiar with metaphors of water – from Jesus declaring in John 7:37: 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink', to 'The tide is now flowing, I'm touching the wave' in 'O Boundless Salvation'. The song 'Waves' uses this metaphor to focus on the instruction from Psalm 46:10 (AV) – 'Be still, and know that I am God' – a familiar verse, but one which needs to be reiterated and

experienced again and again.

As the song builds musically there is an opportunity for the congregation to rest, focus and allow God's presence to engulf them like the waves of a flowing stream.

## WORSHIP LEADING TIPS

- Musically the key to this song is to begin quietly with a very simple accompaniment, and to build throughout – indicating the flow of God's presence as we concentrate



our minds on him. Being able to take the verse melody of 'You are a mighty river, you are a flowing stream...' up an octave as the song builds is one aspect which could really support this. Alternatively, switching from a male lead voice to a female lead voice at this point would work.

- To make this song effective in congregational use it may be useful to change from the original key from C to A major. This will mean the earlier quiet iteration of the lyrics is in a low register, and the climax is not so high as to make it uncomfortable to sing.

## TEAM WORK

- As is often the case with simple and repetitive music, dynamics and arrangement will be crucial to creating the right atmosphere. A simple accompaniment at the start will ease the congregation into the song, with a build-up in texture and volume through the section that begins 'Let the waves crash over me...'. Don't be afraid to use repeated quavers to drive the song forward – although be cautious of becoming overly 'heavy' and distracting.
- The final section of the song, focusing on the verse from Psalm 46, should be quiet and simply accompanied to allow the lyrics to resonate. Don't be afraid to sing this over single sustained chords, or even unaccompanied if your congregation are familiar with the song.
- As is often the case with modern worship music, using added 2nds to the chords can 'warm' them and add interest to otherwise simple harmony.
- 'Waves' lends itself to vocal harmonies which can create a rich, 'full' feel to the climax of the song. Be aware that some congregations can be uncomfortable singing 'Ohs' instead of lyrics – if so, rework the structure of the song and omit the section without lyrics.

## MUSIC

Acoustic demo

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9TsCdT7y30](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9TsCdT7y30)

Chord sheet

[www.worshiptogether.com/songs/waves-worship-central/](http://www.worshiptogether.com/songs/waves-worship-central/)

Lyrics video

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDNA2O7eNhM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDNA2O7eNhM)

Tutorial video

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFOLoFd\\_osE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFOLoFd_osE)



Music and  
Creative Arts

