

**Bible Study Series “Singing the Unsung”  
Session Four - Improving Congregational Singing**

The improvement of music is a journey, not a destination

Genres and finding appropriate instrumentation and tempos

**song:** “Sing for God’s Glory”

(Tune: Lobe Den Herren – see EvLW #858)

That tune is a waltz!

Helpful to keep the spirit of the folk melody, lest it become a lament

Festival in England – Greenbelt (see: <https://www.greenbelt.org.uk/>)

“Sing in the Pub” - singing old hymns as drinking songs, with only piano accompaniment

**song:** “God’s Spirit is Here”

(Tune: Hanover - see EvLW #842)

Break out of the bonds of congregational singing to enjoy singing

**song:** “I Waited Patiently for God”

(Tune: Amazing Grace)

Allow people to believe themselves, and sing unaccompanied (with familiar tunes)

Doing a verse in canon

Having a male sound and a female sound; a choral sound; a children’s sound

**song:** “Ageless God of Boundless Wonder”

(Tune: Holy Manna - see EvLW #771)

A gift of holding up men’s and women’s voices in turn: boys realize that singing *is* a male thing! ...*all* of God’s people finding their voice.

Humming can engage people in singing

**song:** “The Family”

Drawing on scriptural accounts, speaks about Jesus’ life and how he related to others

The learning of new material, and teaching it to a congregation, is not as complex a thing as might sometimes think



Questions for discussion:

What techniques could add musical variety and be the first steps in improving congregational singing in your community.

Where might a song from this session be incorporated into the community life of Gloria Dei?