

Practice Versus Rehearsal: What's the Difference Between Practice And Rehearsal?

Personal Versus Relational	<p><i>Practice is personal; rehearsal is relational.</i> Practice is my personal preparation time that needs to happen BEFORE rehearsal (and again before services).</p> <p>Rehearsal is the relational time where we work on songs together. So when one person is unprepared, that affects everyone. <i>Quit practicing at rehearsals.</i></p>
Learning Event Versus Shaping Event	<p><i>Practice</i> is the time I spend learning my part for each song. <i>Rehearsal</i> is about taking those different parts from each individual musician and shaping them into a whole song, and then shaping those songs into a whole set.</p> <p>Again, <i>quit practicing at rehearsals.</i> Prepare at home to learn your parts. Come to rehearsal ready to shape those parts together into the whole.</p>
Time to Listen Versus Time to Play	<p>If we listen to a song in rehearsal to figure out a part or understand the form, that means two things: <i>First, we didn't listen enough during our personal practice. Second, we're wasting rehearsal time.</i></p> <p>Listening is part of the learning event, so it should be done during personal practice, not rehearsal.</p>
Rehearsals Versus Services (The Proving Ground For Practice)	<p>Rehearsal is the place where we find out how well we practiced. It's one thing to play through a song at home, sitting down, no distractions, and with the ability to start, stop and slow down anytime.</p> <p>It's another thing to do it on the platform, with a full team, and full speed ahead. What was "no problem" at home is a "no go" at rehearsal.</p> <p>So rehearsal is the proving ground for your personal practice. (And if each individual member of our team comes in prepared, it's a good rehearsal.)</p>
Rehearsals Versus Services (The Investment of Practice)	<p>Your practice time is a personal investment in a great rehearsal. Remember, if each individual member of our team comes in prepared, it's a good rehearsal.</p> <p>And then our rehearsal, as a team, is the investment we make together for a quality worship service.</p>
Practicing at Rehearsal Versus Rehearsing at Practice	<p>So no practicing at rehearsal. But you can rehearse at practice. The idea of "rehearsal" has connotation of real. So work some "real" into your practice time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand instead of sit. • Look up from your music; imagine a congregation. • Put on a click or metronome so you have to stay in time. • Move around. • Don't play or sing with the recording of the song once you learn it. It's a crutch.

The Bottomline: *Practice and rehearsal are two sides of the same preparation coin. We need both to effectively lead our church in worship through music.*