

Chapter 8: Song lyrics

Many of the functions in CMO depend on how the lyrics are entered. There aren't many rules for lyric entry, but it's worth looking at this topic before going on to other topics. How you enter lyrics, and more importantly, how you mark special verses like choruses, will impact the functionality of overheads in particular.

Verses

CMO attempts to make verse entry as easy as possible. Type in some words, and leave a blank line following it, and CMO will see that as a verse.

Verse 1 → Abide with me,
fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens,
Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail,
and comforts flee
Help of the helpless,
O abide with me.

Blank line →

Verse 2 → I need thy presence
every passing hour
What but thy grace
can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide
and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine,
O abide with me.

Blank line →

Verse 3 → I fear no foe with thee
at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight.

Any time a blank line is found, a new verse is created.

At any time you can see how CMO will interpret the verses by clicking on the "View" radio button.

Lyrics

OHD Ordering

Timing

Lyrics Edit View

- 1 Abide with me,
fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens,
Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail,
and comforts flee
Help of the helpless,
O abide with me.
- 2 I need thy presence
every passing hour
What but thy grace
can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide
and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine,
O abide with me.
- 3 I fear no foe with thee
at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight,



Tip: If you need a blank line in a verse, put a "." (full stop) on a line by itself. CMO will interpret this as part of the verse, and remove the "." when it renders, leaving a blank line.

Choruses

A feature of most songs is a chorus. A chorus is usually a repeated between each verse.

To mark a verse as a chorus, simply put the word "Chorus" immediately before the verse.

| |
|--|
| <p>Who can cheer the heart like Jesus By His presence all divine? True and tender, pure and precious O how blest to call Him mine!</p> <p>Chorus All that thrills my soul is Jesus He is more than life to me And the fairest of ten thousand In my blessed Lord I see</p> <p>Love of Christ so freely given Grace of God beyond degree Mercy higher than the heaven</p> |
|--|

When the view mode is enable for this song we see this:

| |
|--|
| <p>1 Who can cheer the heart like Jesus By His presence all divine? True and tender, pure and precious O how blest to call Him mine!</p> <p><i>C All that thrills my soul is Jesus He is more than life to me And the fairest of ten thousand In my blessed Lord I see</i></p> <p>2 Love of Christ so freely given Grace of God beyond degree Mercy higher than the heaven</p> |
|--|

Notice that the third section is now called verse 2. CMO keeps track of the number of verses and choruses found.

Other lyric sections

CMO understands the following section headings:

- Chorus
- Pre-Chorus (can be entered as "Pre" or "PreChorus")
- Bridge
- Ending

Put any of these markers in front of a verse and CMO will identify that verse appropriately.

Multiple choruses

Quite a few songs have multiple choruses or bridges. However, you don't need to give these additional sections a number yourself. CMO will automatically number choruses as it examines the verse structure.

| Edit mode | View mode |
|---|--|
| <p>O holy night, the stars are brightly shining; It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.</p> <p>Chorus Fall on your knees, Oh, hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night, O holy night, O night divine!</p> <p>Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand, so led by light of a star so sweetly gleaming, Here came the wise men from orient land. The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger, In all our trials born to be our friend</p> <p>Chorus He knows our need, He guardeth us from danger, Behold your King, before him lowly bend, Behold your King, before Him lowly bend.</p> <p>Truly He taught us to love one another, His law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother. And in his name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, With all our hearts we praise His holy name.</p> | <p>1 O holy night, the stars are brightly shining; It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.</p> <p>C1 <i>Fall on your knees, Oh, hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night, O holy night, O night divine!</i></p> <p>2 Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand, so led by light of a star so sweetly gleaming, Here came the wise men from orient land. The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger, In all our trials born to be our friend</p> <p>C2 <i>He knows our need, He guardeth us from danger, Behold your King, before him lowly bend, Behold your King, before Him lowly bend.</i></p> <p>3 Truly He taught us to love one another, His law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother.</p> |

In this example on the left we can see that two sections have been given the "Chorus" marker. When we switch to view mode on the right we can see the two choruses have been numbered, 1 and 2. This methodology will apply to any section, like bridges, pre-choruses and endings.

Verse ordering

With the verse correctly marked up, a verse order should be applied. If you aren't planning to use the overhead projection facilities of CMO this is less important, but it can still be valuable to know the order in which verses and choruses should be sung.

If you are planning to use the overhead projection facilities, having a verse order can make life a lot easier for your sound desk team.

Entering a verse order is simply a matter of entering each of the components into OHD order field in the order you want them to appear, separated by a space or a comma.

| Lyrics | |
|---|--|
| OHD Ordering | 1 c 2 c 3 c 4 c 5 c |
| Timing | 00:00:00 |
| Lyrics | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Edit <input type="radio"/> View |
| Who can cheer the heart like Jesus By His presence all divine? | |

So, for a song that has 4 verses, you would simply enter "**v1 v2 v3 v4**". You could simplify this further and just enter "**1 2 3 4**".

For a song that has 5 verses and a chorus between each verse, you would enter "**1 c 2 c 3 c 4 c 5 c**".

To repeat a chorus you would enter it twice. For example, "**1 c 2 c c**".

For a song with multiple choruses, you could enter "**v1 c1 v2 c2 v3 c3**".

Note: upper or lower case does not matter. CMO will correctly understand both.

For a song with a bridge, enter "B". For example, "**1 b c 2 b c**".

For a song with a pre-chorus, enter "P". For example, "**1 p c 2 p c**".

For a song with an ending, enter "E". For example, "**1 c 2 c 3 c e**".

Summary

In this chapter we've looked at how to best enter lyrics and mark different sections as choruses or bridges. We also looked at verse ordering, the importance of it and how to enter them.