

A publication of Pro AV, Inc. • Sales, Design & Installation of Audio, Video, Lighting & Keyboards

Easter Recap (How did you do?)

By Bruce Lee

Last month I mentioned five things to help you prepare for any kind of special event your church may produce for Easter. They were:

1. Know Your Exact Needs
2. Take Inventory
3. Rehearse, Rehearse, Rehearse
4. Be Prepared
5. Pray

My wife, three sons and I volunteered to handle sound and video recording of the Easter production at our church (My wife and sons would say I volunteered them). I thought this would be good for all of us. Much of my time is spent teaching and I don't often have the opportunity to actually run the sound. I was looking forward to getting "back in the saddle". This ended up being quite a challenge since our church is not out in front of the technical arena. To make it

more challenging, we found out the week of the event that an outside group would be using the sanctuary for a Friday event and would not be removing their sound and lighting rig until the Monday after. This made it impossible to use the church's system, with I was at least familiar.

So how did I do with our five suggestions?

1. **Know your exact needs** - On Wednesday evening we were able to watch the choir and actors/actresses run through the production. The system we would be using was not up and operational, but I was able to ascertain the needs. I would be bringing in:
 - 7 Sennheiser wireless mics with a mixture of Countryman E6's, E2's and ME2 lapels

- 4 Audix Microbombs
- 1 additional hardwired condenser MXL LSC-1B (this is the first time I have used this mic and I was impressed)
- 1 AKG C 451 B as an ambient mic and an SLS 8190 monitor for the choir. (We also set up a Vaddio camera system for video recording but I'm just looking at Audio). I was prepared to also bring in a Yamaha LS9-32 digital console but the outside group was using one and left it to be used for Sunday.

2. **Take Inventory** - We also made use of 2 wireless mics the church owned, along with stands and cables on site.

3. **Rehearse, Rehearse, Rehearse** - This was the killer! We watched the

CONTINUED ON PG. 2

Inside this issue:

AUDIO

Easter Recap..... 1

Clearance & Sale Items!..... 2

MEDIA

Who? Me? There's no way!..... 3

Did you know?..... 3

Announcements!..... 4

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rehearsal on Wednesday but no equipment was set up to use. We were able to begin setting the equipment up on Friday evening around 10:30. Sometime after 1 a.m., I was dragging and we thought we were far enough along to finish up Saturday morning before the only dress rehearsal that would happen at 9:30 a.m. In hindsight, that was a mistake. We should have made sure we were operational Friday night regardless of how long it took. If I had been 20 years younger, we would have done that.

Because of time restraints of those in the production, we were afforded one run through in which we had to get mic placement, levels and all the cues written down. Afterward, each soloist and actor/actress came by to give me 5 minutes to get the wireless mics on them, set levels and EQ and mark which ones they would have for Sunday. There was

no rehearsal with all the participants miced.

4. Be Prepared - I had taken a play book and marked cues along with a separate sheet that named the participants of each scene and which mic they were using. This would have been more useful if we had one rehearsal with all the mics but you have to work with what you are given. The pastor helped by standing behind myself and the lighting tech and calling the cues. This worked flawlessly until "Mary" sang a solo and I missed the first couple of words because I missed him calling the cue. The reason I missed it is because it didn't happen. He had to go take care of something else and I didn't know he had left. This was not as obvious because I do not use mute buttons to

turn microphones on and off in a live situation. She began to sing and I quickly, but smoothly, raised the fader up to the level it needed to be. This is much less obvious than un-muting the channel with the fader up and the sound goes from nothing to full in a split second.

5. Pray - This production was done with volunteers and was certainly not polished and perfect. But it was very moving and the sound, lighting and video were enhancements and not distractions. I believe many were praying for this to touch lives and that was the key! Paul wrote to the Philippians to "not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Ph 4:6 NIV). God honored the many prayers and blessed those who attended and those of us who had a small part in making it happen!

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Who? Me? There's no way!

By Yoli Lee

Have you ever heard yourself saying these words?

Well, let me share with you a short story. My loving husband has a way to get me to do things that I feel I am not ready to do. It happened again this last week! Our 50 year old home church performed a Palm Sunday musical drama. While talking to the Music Minister, my loving husband said: "I can run the Audio for the musical..."... which made me very proud that he volunteered. He completed the sentence by saying "Yoli can do the video". By the time we got to the door to exit the church, I probably had asked him 20 times "What were you thinking about when you volunteered me to record the play?" At that point, he wasn't my "loving" husband anymore!

My biggest flaw and the one that incapacitates me the most is that I am a perfectionist. Trust me, I know that there has only been one perfect human on this earth, but I still believe that I have to have the perfect equipment, the perfect setting and everything perfectly in place so I can move forward. As you can imagine, many times my desire to be perfect keeps me from moving

forward or challenging myself to do things I don't feel ready to do... and that's where my "loving" husband comes in place! Bruce has mastered a way to push me beyond my "handicapping" perfectionism and beyond my confidence level.

So, as promised, Bruce ran the audio along with Robert, our 15 year old. I ran the video with our other two sons -Javi, age 13 and Joshua, age 11 - as my camera "men". We used a Vaddio Production FX mixer and one Sony and one Canon robotic cameras. The Vaddio Production FX video mixer is very easy to operate. I had a 4 LCD preview screen to see all the live cameras. I watched the live shot on the Production FX monitor. Before the play, I had preset the two robotic cameras to shoot different scenes during the play. During the play, Javi, Joshua and I communicated through headsets. I also had the Vaddio DV capture recording the live mix into my laptop. What a time saver that was! No more getting home and connecting the camera to capture the mini DV tapes for hours! I can tell you, for sure, that I got to see the play

after I rendered the video, as I was so nervous during the play that I don't remember a thing!

After the play ended and I made sure the video was properly captured, I hugged my "loving" husband and thanked him for once again pushing me beyond my comfort zone. I probably would have never volunteered to do the play until I had recorded 20 or more rehearsals, had every scene preset for the robotic cameras, and made sure that the boys knew exactly what to shoot without my direction. If Bruce had not pushed me, my perfectionism would have kept me from the blessing I got on Sunday by recording my church's play.

Have you felt God calling you lately to get out of your comfort zone? Sometimes He sends us situations or people to push us to do things that we don't feel comfortable doing so He can shape us into His image. 2 Timothy 1:7 says "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." (NIV) The more we get out of our comfort zone to follow God's lead, the more blessed we become. **That is my prayer for you today and every day!**



If you are looking to purchase a new mixer, look at how many channels you are using now and think ahead. What additional instruments or vocalists could be on your platform in the next 5 years? A properly miced drum set is the more dramatic change as it can add 8-10 mics.

Now you know!



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