

# NASHVILLE NUMBER SYSTEM

## *Worship Team Quick Reference:*

### THE BASICS

The Nashville Number System is musical shorthand that replaces chords names with scale degrees. It allows worship musicians the ability to easily transpose songs, stay flexible, and easily communicate with one another during spontaneous moments.

NUMBER	NOTE IN KEY OF C	CHORD QUALITY	COMMON USE
1	C	MAJOR	TONIC
2m	D	MINOR	BUILDS EMOTION
3m	E	MINOR	OFTEN TRANSITIONAL
4	F	MAJOR	STABILITY
5	G	MAJOR	DRIVES MOVEMENT
6m	A	MINOR	REFLECTIVE/EMOTIONAL
7dim	B	DIMINISHED	RARELY USED IN WORSHIP

### WHY WORSHIP TEAMS USE IT

- Makes last-minute key changes simple
- Helps everyone stay on the same page
- Reduces confusion between capo, chord, and keys
- Works with Planning Center, OnSong, Multitracks & more
- Encourages spontaneous, Spirit-led worship flow

### PRO TIPS

- Practice “thinking in numbers” by translating familiar song charts to Nashville Number System for rehearsals.
- Use Digital Tools: Apps like ChartBuilder, Sunday Keys, and OnSong allow quick transposing using Numbers.
- Practice Spontaneity: Once your team knows numbers, it’s easier to flow into unplanned chords or extend a moment musically.
- Train your team to play in multiple keys by starting each rehearsal jamming on the same chord progression in 3 different keys.

### COMMON SYMBOLS

SYMBOL	MEANING	EXAMPLE
m or -	minor chord	6m (A minor)
o	Diminished chord	7 <sup>o</sup> = Bdim
/X	Slash chord (bass)	5/7 = G/B
()	Optional chord	(2m)
.	Hold 1 beat	1...

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KEY	1	2m	3m 1/3	4	5	6m	7dim 5/7
<b>A</b>	A	Bm	C#m A/C#	D	E	F#m	G#dim E/G#
<b>Bb (A#)</b>	Bb (A#)	Cm	Dm Bb/D	Eb	F	Gm	Adim F/A
<b>B</b>	B	C#m	D#m B/D#	E	F#	G#m	A#dim F#/A#
<b>C</b>	C	Dm	Em C/E	F	G	Am	Bdim G/B
<b>Db (C#)</b>	Db (C#)	Ebm	Fm Db/F	Gb	Ab	Bbm	Cdim Ab/C
<b>D</b>	D	Em	F#m D/F#	G	A	Bm	C#dim A/C#
<b>Eb (D#)</b>	Eb (D#)	Fm	Gm Eb/G	Ab	Bb	Cm	Ddim Bb/D
<b>E</b>	E	F#m	G#m E/G#	A	B	C#m	D#dim B/D#
<b>F</b>	F	Gm	Am F/A	Bb	C	Dm	Edim C/E
<b>Gb (F#)</b>	Gb (F#)	Abm (G#m)	Bbm Gb/Bb	Cb (B)	Db (C#)	Ebm	Fdim Db/F
<b>G</b>	G	Am	Bm G/B	C	D	Em	F#dim D/F#
<b>Ab (G#)</b>	Ab (G#)	Bbm	Cm Ab/C	Db	Eb	Fm	Gdim Eb/G