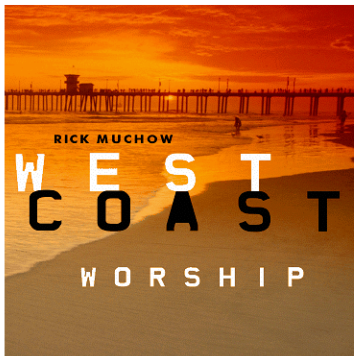


"Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them singing: "To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power for ever and ever!" The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshipped." - Revelation 5:3-14 (NIV)



West Coast Worship

Rick Muchow

Worship happens... and when God inhabits the praises of His people on the West Coast, worship happens in a whole new way.

West Coast Worship...Rick Muchow makes you want to put the top down and drive with the wind whipping through your hair. It makes you want to kick your shoes off and feel the warm, sandy beach beneath your feet. It makes you want to throw up your hands and burst forth with the rhymes and rhythms of the day. **West Coast Worship** is a project that will find its way into your CD player not only on Sunday morning on your way to church, but on Friday afternoon on your way home from work, and lots of times in between.

As worship pastor for Orange County, California's Saddleback Church - the fastest growing church in America - Rick Muchow is keenly aware that the songs he presents to the nearly 18,000 people that flock to the church on any given Sunday must be user-friendly, yet alive with the presence of God. "We call it Seeker Sensitive," Rick explains. "Rather than trying to make our music sound like church music, we'd rather listen to the kind of music that the non-churched are listening to and see how we can use that to communicate the Gospel. But just because it is Seeker Sensitive doesn't mean it has to be theologically incorrect or shallow."

With his latest release, **West Coast Worship**, worship leader Rick Muchow, like the wise scribe in Jesus' parable, pulls from his storeroom new treasures as well as old, showcasing his own creations along with offerings from his fellow worshippers. From the hauntingly beautiful, ancient Celtic hymn, "Be Thou My Vision," to the James Taylor-esque "Trust God," to the exuberant, contemporary declaration of faith "(I Will Not Be) Shaken," Rick deftly weaves worship through the fabric of each song, producing a modern tapestry of adoration; an avant-garde garment of praise. **West Coast Worship** is solidly grounded in the Word, yet filtered through the lens of sun-drenched southern California.

"We are always looking for upbeat songs that are positive, with clear messages of the Gospel," Rick explains. "We want songs that inspire movement, songs of adoration, songs of commitment, and songs that tie it together. The church is a laboratory where we take a song to see if it works. If it produces worship, if it is a tool that other churches could use, if it is a song our congregation would enjoy listening to in their car, then it is a keeper."

While Rick regularly plays to crowds the size of which would make a rock star salivate, he eschews any thought of stardom. Indeed, he is just as likely to pass the lead vocals to one of his worship team members like Lyndsey Lloyd Wallace ("Thirst") or Jadon Lavik ("Amazing"). And though he is a songwriter of remarkable range and depth, as evidenced by the emotionally charged, Sting-esque "The Greatest Mystery," two-thirds of the songs on ***West Coast Worship*** were written by others, including the impossible-not-to-move-to pop anthem, "(I Will Not Be) Shaken" by Tony Guerrero, and simple, acoustic ballad, "Faith" by Adam Watts.

"I am inspired by other songwriters expressing their true, authentic, relevant relationship with God," Rick declares. "The whole body has something to say. But my calling is very specific. I have been called to be a local church pastor, and I would not leave the church to be a superstar musician. You see, I have this incredible passion for people - and not just for meeting people, but for knowing people. If I were on the road I might meet a lot of folks, but I wouldn't be at their mother's funeral, at their wedding, or at the birth of their kids. And that is really what I am called to. I want to help my neighborhood know Christ. And anything we do that can help other churches be effective in reaching their communities, that is what I want to promote."

Like a fresh breeze blowing in off the ocean, ***West Coast Worship*** ushers in a unique sound in the worship arena that is distinctly west coast.

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