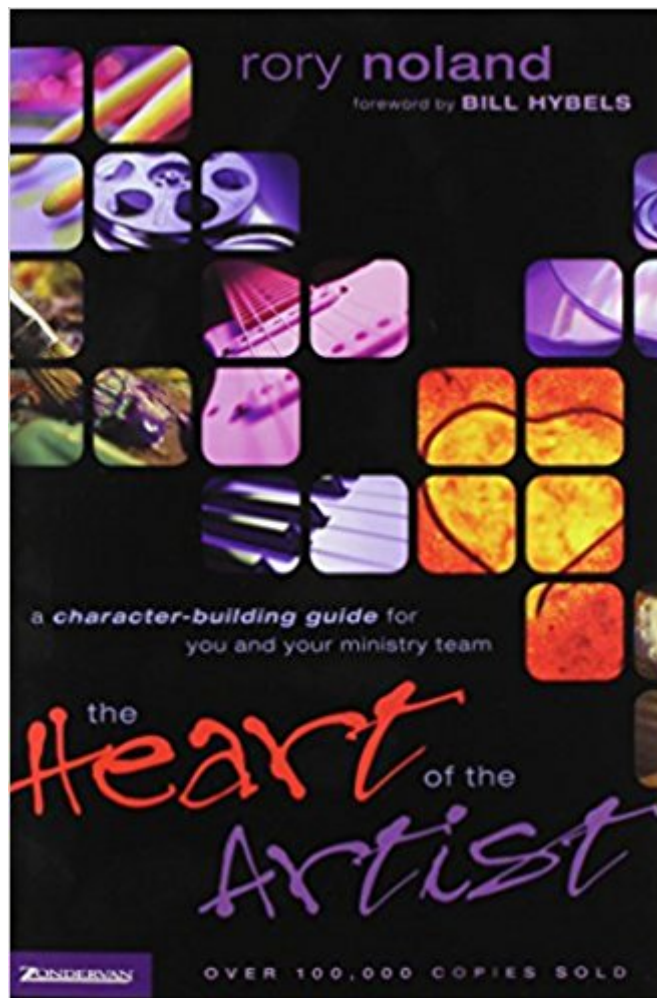


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# The Heart Of The Artist



## Synopsis

Over 100,000 sold – Great for individuals and teams – Includes provocative discussion questions – “I wish I had your gift!” – How do you handle those words as a creative artist? Somewhere between pride and self-abasement lies true humility – just one aspect of the balanced character God wants to instill in you as an actor, a musician, a visual artist, or other creative person involved in ministry. God is interested in your art and your heart. The Heart of the Artist deals head-on with issues every person in an arts ministry faces: Servanthood Versus Stardom – Excellence Versus Perfectionism – The Spiritual Disciplines of the Artist – The Artist in Community . . . and more The Heart of the Artist will give you a better understanding of yourself and your unique place in the body of Christ. You will find wisdom and encouragement that can help you survive the challenges and reap the rich joys of a ministry in the creative arts. “Breath-takingly personal, practical, and poignant.” – Timothy Tien, New York, New York “I am better for having applied these principles. . . . A must-read for church staff, creative types, growing Christians, human beings.” – Rev. Ginny Allen, Jackson, Mississippi “Rory Noland pinpoints issues that often arise in the life of the artist, and gives good, biblical solutions. A must-have for Christian artists in any field.” – Tom Hinkle, Tulsa, Oklahoma Rory Noland is director of Heart of the Artist Ministries ([www.heartoftheartist.org](http://www.heartoftheartist.org)), an organization dedicated to turning teams of church artists into communities of grace. A composer, songwriter, author, and speaker, Rory is a graduate of the Chicago Musical College at Roosevelt University and served for twenty years as music director at Willow Creek Community Church.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"I wish I had your gift!" How do you handle those words as a creative artist? When you're good at what you do, is it really humble to hem and haw in the face of praise? Between pride and self-abasement lies true humility; just one aspect of the balanced character God wants to instill in you as an actor, a musician, a visual artist, or other creative person involved in ministry. He's interested in your art and your heart. *The Heart of the Artist* is like no other book you've read. Written for artists by an artist, this frank, knowledgeable book deals head-on with issues every person in an arts ministry faces. With passion and conviction that come from personal experience, Rory Noland, music director for Willow Creek Community Church, addresses topics such as ? Servanthood Versus Stardom ? The Artist in Community ? Excellence Versus Perfectionism ? Jealousy and Envy ? Managing Your Emotions ? The Spiritual Disciplines of the Artist *The Heart of the Artist* will help you gain a better understanding of yourself and your unique place in the body of Christ. You'll find wisdom and encouragement that can help you survive the challenges and reap the rich joys of a ministry in the creative arts -- Publisher

The church can be so enthusiastic for the product an artist or musician produces that issues of character and commitment are often glossed over. This book faces those concerns head on. Looking at the particular gifts and challenges that artists bring to the spiritual life, Noland uses his experiences of discipling artists to explore issues such as servanthood versus stardom, teamwork versus lone-ranger Christianity, and excellence versus perfectionism. This is the only book written especially to help artists and those who work with artists take seriously God's call to character growth in their Christian lives.

This is my second time reading this book. I read it with our former praise team when I lived in Virginia about ten years ago. Now we live in Florida and we are reading through it again with another praise team at a different church. This book is just as relevant now as it was then. Because I am a church musician, the words of this book are almost as if I were looking into a mirror. It is almost as if Rory wrote this book to me personally although we have never met. He gives great solutions to avoid pitfalls in church ministry whether you are an instrumentalist, a vocalist, a sound technician, or a leader in the music ministry. If you serve in the music ministry at your church in any

capacity, I highly recommend this book.

This book is the very best primer I've found for worship teams. It is essential for Worship Leaders to know why we do what we do, and to know that our worship team members are there for the right reasons. After 20+ years in music ministry, I still use Rory Noland's *Heart of the Artist* as a manual for new worship team members, and it can be used as a Bible study for the whole team. Too often we focus on the mechanics of leading worship, e.g. playing or singing the right notes the right way, which is very important, yet we sometimes fail to address the "heart" of the matter. If you are a worship leader who has struggled with "difficult" band members, had to fire someone from the team, or even if you are simply struggling with feeling motivated, this book is essential for you to read. Mr. Noland gives biblical support for all of his points and makes clearer the murky area of serving with artistic temperaments. This book was a groundbreaker when it was written, and though there are many sources available today, "*The Heart of the Artist*" is, in my opinion, still the best manual out there for building and maintaining a worship team with a right heart.

I bought this book back in August but I didn't have a yearning to read it while up at college. Now that I'm back home and have more free time than I can deal with, I decided to open up the pages of this ebook. The book is divided into ten chapters dealing with topics that most have either experienced or witnessed in the church. The following topics were on character, humility, teamwork, excellence vs perfectionism, handling criticism, jealousy, managing emotions, leadership, sin, and spiritual discipline. Not stating specific sins I know I have struggled with each topic. Each chapter opens with a fictional scenario that can happen anywhere. The author goes into detail on how and why we struggle and what does the Bible offer for council. He then ends every chapter with questions on the topic for group discussions though they can be use for self evaluation. I didn't particularly like reading this book. It wasn't because the information was baseless but because it was too convicting. I've been struggling with bouts of doubt and depression and this book confirmed the conclusion I arrived to, no matter how hard I try I can't save myself. None of my gifts, skills, or talents could ever relieve me of the burdens of my heart. Only Jesus can save. The gifts we were given to Him are to be used to give Him glory and praise. Though you could get all this information from the Bible or a book on discipleship, I appreciate the effort the author took to target the artists (musicians, singers, dancers, poets, a/v technicians, actors, etc) in the church who need some encouragement while serving Christ and His people. I would recommend this book for anyone who would like to that their artisanship to higher heights in Christ and build up whatever ministry

their hands take part in. The book is a bit wordy for only pages for an ebook but I can guarantee this you will learn something from your edification.

I am a worship pastor that is not musically trained and did not really see myself as an "artist," as it is defined in this book. I may see myself that way now more than ever, I have some doubts still, but this book has definitely helped me in my understanding of artists and how to best shepherd them. Thank you Rory for your openness and leadership in writing this book. It was a great help to me and I look forward to sharing many of these biblical principles with my people. God bless! Pastor Chad Houghton

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