

The Pic Coustic Band's Performance at a Worship Service at the GKJW Congregation in Surabaya

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Article Details	ABSTRACT
Article History Received July 20, 2025 Revised July 5, 2026 Accepted July 6, 2026	The Pic Coustic band is one of the bands based at the Jawi Wetan Christian Church Congregation in Surabaya. This study aims to explain the existence of the Pic Coustic band and the factors that support its existence at the Jawi Wetan Christian Church Congregation in Surabaya. This study employs a qualitative descriptive approach. The data collection techniques used include observation, interviews, and documentation. The results of this study are: (1) The existence of the Pic Coustic band is based on its activities and factual evidence; (2) The factors supporting the existence of the Pic Coustic band include external factors such as the community and social media, while internal factors include cooperation among members toward a common goal, distinctive characteristics, and performance experience.
Keywords Existence Pic Coustic Band GKJW Surabaya Congregation	
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1. INTRODUCTION

The Jawi Wetan Christian Church (GKJW) is a regional church located in East Java. As of 2023, the Jawi Wetan Christian Church has 178 congregations spread across urban and rural areas from Ngawi to Banyuwangi (Andreas Dondy, 2006). Many old churches were built during the colonial era. One of them is the Surabaya Congregation of the Jawi Wetan Christian Church, founded during the Dutch colonial period in Surabaya. The exact date of construction for the Surabaya Congregation of the Jawi Wetan Christian Church remains uncertain, but the church was officially inaugurated on November 3, 1847. The Surabaya Congregation of the Jawi Wetan Christian Church is located in downtown Surabaya at 25–27 Prof. Dr. Moestopo Street. Worship services at the Surabaya Congregation of the Jawi Wetan Christian Church are held three times a day at 6:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.m.

Christian worship services are accompanied by hymns that are always accompanied by musical instruments. According to the general public, music has a unique appeal because its lyrics express and convey human emotion, whether from a group or an individual (Raisah Armayanti Nasution K, 2001). Music is a combination of notes and sounds from various instruments that create harmony to express emotions and ideas (Jacob, 2017). This expression of emotion fosters a sensitivity that enables the congregation to experience and appreciate every nuance of harmony, rhythm, melody, and tempo as they listen to music (Ghozali et al., 2026). Music can create a supportive atmosphere during a worship service (Sihombing, n.d.). Christians believe that the music presented during a worship service is a gift of God's grace, meant to glorify God. Music in worship serves as a medium to connect the congregation before the Word of God or the sermon begins, through singing and praise. Music and the congregation's singing form a unified whole that complements one another (Osei-Bonsu, 2013).

There are no specific rules regarding the use of music in worship services. However, the use of musical instruments in church significantly impacts worship (Y. R. Purba et al., 2025). Worship services at GKJW Surabaya generally use organs and *keyboards* to accompany praise and singing. The function of music in church worship is to give thanks and to communicate with God (Wahyuni, 2022). Over time, the musical instruments used at GKJW Surabaya have expanded beyond the organ and keyboard; the church now uses various instruments, including drums, keyboards, guitars, bass, and vocals, which can be referred to as a band, to serve in worship. The music performed includes not only songs from the Kidung Jemaat hymnal but also popular and Western Christian songs currently in vogue (Dewi, 2019).

The GKJW Surabaya Congregation has a band called Pic Coustic. Pic Coustic is the main band at the Gereja Kristen Jawi Wetan (GKJW) Surabaya Congregation. GKJW Surabaya is a non-charismatic church with a congregation mostly composed of Javanese people who tend to prefer soft, atmospheric music. The music performed by Pic Coustic goes beyond mere chord playing; it expresses musical creativity as a form of worship and prayer to God. To this day, Pic Coustic has grown increasingly popular among the GKJW Surabaya congregation, and the band has become more prominent and widely recognized by the general public. Based on this background, the author is interested in conducting research on the existence of this band at GKJW Surabaya.

2. METHOD

In this study, the researcher employed a qualitative research method. Qualitative research is a method used to study natural settings, in which the researcher serves as the key instrument (Sugiyono, 2013). In qualitative research, the researcher conducts interviews and observations and actively participates in the process, thereby uncovering answers and identifying patterns of interrelationships (Sembiring, 2024). Initially, the researcher identifies data sources and then conducts in-depth data collection to formulate a hypothesis regarding the relationships among phenomena. If this hypothesis is validated, it becomes a theory. This study employs a qualitative research design using a descriptive qualitative approach. Descriptive qualitative research is a method of collecting data, analyzing it, and reporting on reality as it is. According to Rohidi, art research employs systematic data collection methods to examine various forms of artistic works (music, dance, visual arts, performances, etc.) created by individuals or communities, as well as the environments that serve as the backdrop for these artistic expressions (Rohidi, 2011). This study aims to explain the existence of the band Pic Coustic and the factors that support its presence during worship services at the GKJW Surabaya Congregation.

This study was conducted at the Jawi Wetan Church Congregation in Surabaya, located at Jl. Prof. DR. Moestopo No. 25-27, Tambaksari, Surabaya. The focus of this study is the existence of the band Pic Coustic. The data sources for this study include the church music team, representatives of the Pic Coustic band, representatives other than members of the GKJW Surabaya congregation, and books and images related to the Pic Coustic band during worship services at GKJW Surabaya.

The data collection methods used in this study included observation, interviews, and documentation. The observation focused on the research question regarding the existence of the Pic Coustic band and the factors supporting its existence during worship services at the GKJW Surabaya Congregation. Interviews were conducted with the coordinator of the GKJW Surabaya Congregation church music team, Mrs. Wiwied; representatives of the Pic Coustic band, Angel and Rio Panca; and a representative from outside the GKJW Surabaya Congregation, Antonius. Documentation is a data collection technique that involves analyzing various documents, including written materials, images, videos, and other electronic media (Sukmadinata, 2016). The documentation used in this study included personal photographs taken during observations and content from social media platforms such as Instagram and YouTube. In any research, data validity—or the accuracy of the data—must be assessed. Validity refers to the degree of accuracy between the data observed in the research subject and the data reported by the researcher (Sugiyono, 2013). In this study, data validity was assessed using triangulation to test credibility. In this study, the researcher employed source triangulation to maintain a focused approach during interviews with informants, thereby gaining a deeper understanding of the aspects under investigation. This was followed by data analysis, which served as the foundation for the research. The steps in the researcher's data analysis process included data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusions.

3. RESULT

In this chapter, the researcher presents the results of observations and interviews with informants regarding the existence of the Pic Coustic band during worship services at the Surabaya Congregation of the

Jawi Wetan Christian Church. Existence refers to a state or condition characterized by persistence (Bahasa, 2008). The theory used in this presentation is the theory of existence by Save M. Dagun (Lestari, 2022), as cited in.

1. The Existence of the Pic Coustic Band in Worship Services at the GKJW Surabaya Congregation

i. The Existence of the Pic Coustic Band in Worship Services at the GKJW Surabaya Congregation Based on Work Activities

Based on Save M. Dagun's theory regarding existence, it is explained that work activities reveal the essence of a person; external human activities—such as hand and foot movements—as well as internal activities, such as a person's emotions, serve as signs that a person's existence is acknowledged (Dagun, 1990). Maintaining the PIC Coustic band's existence must be linked to both external activities and the band members' inner activities, so that the band's existence is not lost but rather develops, regenerates, and fosters cooperation among the congregation. Based on observations regarding the existence of the PIC Coustic band during worship services at the Jawi Wetan Christian Church in Surabaya, the following aspects related to work activities were identified: annual worship events, the order of worship services, the PIC Coustic band's rehearsal schedule, and the musical instruments used.

a. Annual Worship Schedule

➤ Year-End and New Year's Worship Service

These services are usually held on December 31 at 11:00 PM and January 1 at 8:00 AM to give thanks for what God has given His people year after year.



Figure 1: New Year's Worship Service
(Photo by: Personal Archive)

➤ Easter Service

According to Christians, Easter is a service celebrating the victory of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead (Maleachi, 2010). This Easter service was held on April 9 at 8:00 AM.



Figure 2: Easter Service

(Source: *YouTube* GKJW Surabaya)

➤ Christmas Service

Christmas is a Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ (Manurung, 2022). The congregation eagerly anticipates these Christmas worship services because the Christmas spirit is one of great joy in welcoming the birth of Jesus. At the GKJW Surabaya Congregation, they usually hold a Christmas Eve service and a Christmas Day service. The Christmas Eve service is held on December 24 at 7:00 p.m., and the Christmas Day service is held on December 25 at 8:00 a.m.



Figure 3: Christmas Celebration Service
(Video by: GKJW Surabaya *YouTube channel*)

➤ Download the Service

The Jawi Wetan Christian Church has a worship service unlike any other church's. This "Unduh-Unduh" service is a celebratory worship service that expresses gratitude and offers thanks for the harvest God has provided (Martono & Arifin, 2022). Distinctive features of this service include the wearing of traditional Javanese attire and a liturgy featuring hymns in Javanese. The Unduh-Unduh service is held in May and October.



Figure 4: Unduh-Unduh Service
(Photo by: Personal Archive)

➤ GKJW Surabaya Congregation Anniversary

The anniversary of the GKJW Surabaya Congregation is observed on the date of its official inauguration, November 3. However, the annual celebration is adjusted according to the agreed-upon annual schedule. The GKJW Surabaya anniversary celebration typically incorporates elements of Suroboyoan culture.

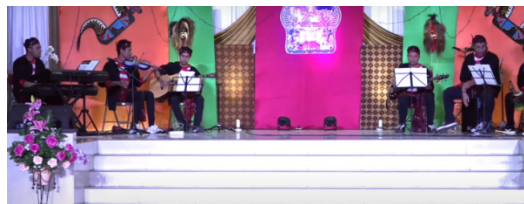


Figure 5: GKJW Surabaya Congregation Anniversary Service
(Video by: GKJW Surabaya *YouTube channel*)

➤ Youth Worship Service (Pelma)

Pelma stands for Student Ministry. According to data from the GKJW Surabaya Congregation, the majority of its members are young people. Young people are very interested in and enjoy songs and music that reflect contemporary trends (Akka & Devisa, 2023). The role of the band Pic Coustic in this Pelma worship service is extremely important. Music, praise, and worship greatly influence each young person's self-expression in praising and worshiping God.



Figure 6: Student Ministry Worship Service
(Video source: GKJW Surabaya *YouTube channel*)

➤ *Freedom of Youth Concert*

Freedom of Youth was a gospel concert held on September 14, 2024, at the East Parking Lot of Delta Plaza in Surabaya. The concert was organized for all Christians in Surabaya. The band Pic Coustic accompanied Delon Thamrin, *the evening's guest star*. Pic Coustic also performed several hymns commonly sung during worship services.



Image 7: *Freedom of Youth* Spiritual Concert
(Source: GKJW Surabaya *YouTube* channel)

b. Order of Worship Services

Liturgy is a sequence of activities performed during Christian worship services, serving as the foundation for ministry, offering, and commissioning (E. D. Purba & Kumala, 2022). Based on the observations, the worship service led by the band Pic Coustic is guided by *a singer* who also serves as *the worship leader*—often referred to as the MC (*Master of Ceremonies*). The sequence of the band's performance aligns with the liturgy or established order of worship as follows:

[illegible]

Figure 8: Worship Liturgy at the GKJW Surabaya Congregation

(Doc by: Personal Documentation)

c. Pic Coustic Band Rehearsal Schedule

Based on the researcher's observations, the Pic Coustic band's rehearsals align with the church's plan. The GKJW Surabaya Congregation has an annual program known as the PKT (Annual Work Program). These rehearsals typically last 2–3 hours.

d. Musical Instruments Used

Musical instruments are devices designed to produce notes that form music or even songs (Alvia et al., 2025). The instruments used in a band setting vary widely. As technology has evolved, musical instruments have diversified to suit the needs of different song genres, including the following:

➤ **Keyboard**

A keyboard is a type of melodic musical instrument that resembles a piano but has several additional features (Wiraguna et al., 2014). The type of musical instrument used by the band Pic Coustic during the worship service at GKJW Surabaya is the Yamaha PSR-SX700



Figure 9: GKJW Surabaya Congregation Keyboard
(Photo by: Personal Archive)

➤ **Guitar**

A guitar is a musical instrument consisting of six strings that produce sound when plucked (Fitriyani & Mahadji, 2017). The guitar used by the members of the band Pic Coustic is an electric guitar of the Suhr Mateus Asato Series Custom model, and guitar effects are typically added.



Figure 10: GKJW Surabaya Congregation Guitar
(Photo by: Personal Collection)

➤ **Bass**

The bass is a stringed instrument similar to the guitar but with a lower pitch (Nurjamilah, Rizki, Bik, 2025). The bass plays an important role in a song by providing the melodic foundation. The electric bass used by the members of the band Pic Coustic is a Yamaha TRBX504.



Figure 11: GKJW Surabaya Congregation Bass
(Photo by: Personal Archive)

➤ Drums

A drum is a percussion instrument made of skin that is played by striking it (Fachrullah, 2020). The drums used by the band Pic Coustic are electronic. Drums play an important role in a band by setting the tempo of a song. The electric drums used by the members of the band Pic Coustic during the worship service at GKJW Surabaya Congregation are the Yamaha DTX Pro drum set and the Yamaha DTX600 pad.



Figure 12: Drums at GKJW Surabaya Congregation
(Photo by: Personal Documentation)

ii. The Presence of the Pic Coustic Band at Worship Services at the GKJW Surabaya Congregation Based on Facts

According to Save M. Dagun's theory, facts are an important factor in distinguishing between what exists and what does not (Dagun, 1990). Every existing fact has existence; the concept of existence is real or can be called actual. Based on the researcher's observations of the Pic Coustic band during worship services at the GKJW Surabaya Congregation, the researcher considers the following facts. Some aspects related to these facts include the background of the Pic Coustic band and its function.

➤ Background of the Pic Coustic Band

Based on interviews with sources, many assumed that the congregation at GKJW Surabaya consisted mostly of seniors and the elderly, but in reality, most of them are young people. The book **History of GKJW Surabaya** states that accompaniment during worship was limited to an organist and a worship leader. However, over time, the GKJW Surabaya Congregation came to need a *full* band to help the congregation experience worship more deeply through songs of praise. The rising number of young people initially drove the formation of the PIC Coustic Band. Keeping pace with the times, the GKJW Surabaya Congregation wanted its youth to become more faithful and more active in participating in church worship. Therefore, the youth at that time proposed forming a band to serve in worship. The band was named Pic Coustic, inspired by the name of a photography community within the GKJW Surabaya Congregation called Pic KPPM GKJW Surabaya Congregation. Initially, the Pic Coustic band provided only musical accompaniment for worship services because its members were busy with their individual activities. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Pic Coustic began creating covers of Christian songs and hymns from the collection to help the congregation worship online and to provide a positive impact during a time when people were

confined to their homes. This has made Pic Coustic well-known among God's congregation—not only within the GKJW Surabaya Congregation but also among all of God's congregations throughout Indonesia.

➤ **The Role of the Pic Coustic Band**

Based on interviews with sources, music plays a very important role, especially in the worship atmosphere at church. Each church has its own rules regarding music. Music in a church serves as a means of praising God. The presence of a band during worship services is a positive element that can support the musical ministry. The Pic Coustic band can assist the congregation by providing a medium for self-expression through the volume, tempo, and melody of a song.

2. Factors Supporting the Existence of the Pic Coustic Band at the GKJW Surabaya Congregation

i. Internal Factors Supporting the Existence of the Pic Coustic GKJW Surabaya Congregation Band

➤ **Factors supporting the existence of the Pic Coustic GKJW Surabaya Congregation Band based on cooperation among members toward a common goal**

Based on the results of the observation, cooperation is an activity carried out by several people with a common goal (Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia 2008:704). Cooperation can organize or coordinate all matters related to that group to achieve the desired goal. Good cooperation leads to an optimal outcome. Cooperation within the Pic Coustic band also aims to ensure that the band is accepted by the congregation of the Jawi Wetan Christian Church in Surabaya and maintains its existence as a worship ministry.

The Pic Coustic band has been able to sustain its existence because it serves a noble purpose in worship—namely, to help the congregation fully appreciate the meaning of each worship service, particularly through spiritual songs that enhance the atmosphere of worship at the Surabaya Congregation of the Jawi Wetan Christian Church. The Pic Coustic band's musical accompaniment also has a positive effect, instilling a sense of peace in the congregation as they feel God's protection through the band's music.

➤ **Factors supporting the existence of the Pic Coustic Band at the GKJW Surabaya Congregation based on its distinctive characteristics**

According to the Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language), a distinctive feature is a characteristic of a language. These distinctive features serve to distinguish one thing from another. Based on interviews with sources, the band Pic Coustic at this worship service differs from other bands in charismatic churches. GKJW Surabaya Congregation is a non-charismatic church that generally uses a worship leader and organist, with songs drawn exclusively from the Kidung Jemaat hymnal. The GKJW Surabaya Congregation formed the Pic Coustic band to ensure that young congregants never grow bored during worship. The Pic Coustic band maintains its identity by showcasing its distinctive feature—performing Javanese spiritual songs—while remaining true to the GKJW tradition.

➤ **Factors Supporting the Existence of the Pic Coustic Band at GKJW Surabaya Congregation Based on Performance Experience**

According to the Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language), a "stage" is a place where a performance takes place. Based on observations, the Pic Coustic band always performs at the GKJW Surabaya Congregation during major events and Pelma worship services. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pic Coustic band also created cover versions of spiritual songs and congregational hymns, which were uploaded to the GKJW Surabaya Congregation's YouTube channel. The Pic Coustic band has also provided musical ministry at several events, including Student-Based Communities (KBM), spiritual concerts, MD ST 1 and 2 (East Surabaya Regional Council) events, and inter-church ministry exchanges among non-charismatic churches (GKJW, GKI, GPIB, and similar denominations).

ii. External Factors Supporting the Existence of the Pic Coustic GKJW Surabaya Congregation Band

➤ **Factors Supporting the Existence of the Pic Coustic GKJW Surabaya Congregation Band Through the Community**

The Pic Coustic Band is one of the Christian bands that regularly performs at the GKJW Surabaya Congregation. A Christian community supporting the Pic Coustic Band is the Student

-Based Community (KBM), a group of Christian students and workers from outside Surabaya. KBM activities are held at various churches on a rotating basis. The purpose of these activities is to strengthen the faith of students and workers through worship together. At several KBM events, the Pic Coustic Band is also involved in ministry at different churches on a rotating basis.

➤ Factors Supporting the Presence of the Pic Coustic GKJW Surabaya Congregation Band on Social Media

The social media platform the Pic Coustic Band uses to support its presence is *YouTube*. The Pic Coustic Band creates various pieces of content, including spiritual songs and congregational hymns, through the GKJW Surabaya Congregation *YouTube channel*. One example is the Pic Coustic Band's cover of Congregational Hymn No. 329, titled "Tinggal Sertaku," which has garnered 1,500 views (<https://youtu.be/l010LGguku4?feature=shared>) and a cover of the song "Keluargaku adalah Sorgaku," which reached 27,000 views (<https://youtu.be/XVyM8o1Rdcw?feature=shared>). Through these *YouTube* covers, the Pic Coustic Band has gained recognition among the general public.

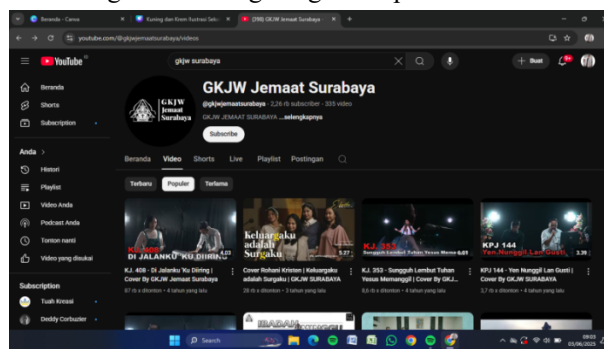


Figure 13: GKJW Surabaya Congregation YouTube Channel
(Video by: GKJW Surabaya on *YouTube*)

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the research conducted, it can be concluded that the PIC Coustic Band is essential for all worship services at GKJW Surabaya. This band significantly influences the flow of worship services at the GKJW Surabaya congregation. As ministers of worship, the band can inspire each congregant to be more active in church life and to be more faithful to God. The presence of music in worship helps us praise and glorify the name of God, and it even adds joy and enthusiasm that can move the emotions of every member of the GKJW Surabaya congregation attending the service. The use of this band has led to rapid developments and changes in church music.

The youth group of the Jawi Wetan Christian Church in Surabaya proposed using a band to lead worship services. This proposal has been reviewed and approved by the pastor, the church council, and the church music team. The band's musical accompaniment has a significant impact on many aspects of worship, particularly the enthusiasm of the youth. The band Pic Coustic always prepares well and helps the congregation focus more on worship. The musical accompaniment provided by Pic Coustic sets the mood for the congregation to enter into an atmosphere of worship as they reflect on the hymns. The band's music helps the congregation praise God, pray, and prepare to receive God's Word. The band's music greatly influences the congregation's mood during worship.

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