

## *PREPARING TO PERFORM*

Hey, congratulations! You're on the roster for an upcoming MAS Showcase!

We're really excited to have the opportunity to hear your music. We also realize that you may or may not be a professional performer, and that's OK. However, for your image and for the image of MAS, we hope you'll put your "best foot forward" with a professionally prepared performance.

To that end, here are a few guidelines to make your performance the best for you, your fellow performers, MAS and even the venue, which has graced us with opportunity to play for its customers:

1. Always perform YOUR original songs. Never play cover songs (those written by others). Obviously, if you are a co-writer of a song, that also qualifies as one of YOURS.

2. Tune up. Make sure your instrument is tuned up prior to getting on stage. It's generally considered rude to expect an audience to sit through someone tuning an instrument - that can tend to be an awkward moment for all. Also, remember that instruments are subject to the temperature and humidity conditions of a room and even subject to body temperatures. So please take your instrument out of its case in plenty of time for it to adjust to room conditions. Then tune it before heading up to the stage. Usually, there is a backstage area or back corner of a room where you can quietly prepare.

3. Practice up. Please take the time to practice songs so you are as confident in presenting them as possible. We realize everyone is subject to stage jitters or mistakes; however, you will make your audience, MAS and yourself much more confident and comfortable if you've practiced and prepared your set days or weeks in advance if necessary. Pick your tunes for the set in advance and be prepared when you step on stage.

4. Respect listeners. When you're behind the microphone and introducing a song or interacting with an audience, PLEASE do not make the following types of comments/excuses/apologies:

"I haven't quite gotten this one down yet, but here goes..."

"I just wrote this today, so I hope I remember the lyrics..."

"I'm not sure how good this one is, but bear with me..."

"I'm just getting over a cold, so I hope I can hit all the notes on this next one..."

Imagine if your surgeon said, "I just learned this procedure today and I hope it's a good one and I can still remember it, but hang in with me, OK?" Public performance might not be brain surgery, but we expect you to be prepared and to present your set with confidence. Confidence comes with rehearsal, so see #2 above.

Remember that we are guests at the venue; people have taken the time and trouble to come and listen to you and your fellow MAS members. Accordingly, each of us should respect the listeners by making your performance as professional as possible for all concerned.

5. Respect your fellow performers. It's great that you bring a crowd to hear you perform your tunes; however, raucously chatting and laughing away before and/or after your set while a fellow member is on stage is...well, you know. You're expected to be there for the entire showcase to show support for fellow performers, so applaud for them the way you'd want them to applaud for you!

So tune up, practice up and speak up confidently! This will help you enjoy presenting the song you worked so hard to write, and that song deserves the best performance you can give it!

Thank you,  
MAS Board