

# REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE AND ADVICE

Student Handout

## REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE:

### 1. SHOW UP A HALF HOUR EARLY!!!!

- a. Give yourself time to set up your equipment.
- b. Tune your guitar(s)
- c. Get drums positioned correctly
- d. Get the instruments balanced with the mixer
- e. Vocalist needs to warm-up

### 2. MAKE SURE THAT YOU KNOW ALL OF YOUR PARTS.

- a. The point of a BAND REHEARSAL is to put together all of the parts that you have learned individually.
- b. Your band mates won't be impressed if they know their parts and you don't. It slows things down.

### 3. HAVE SPECIFIC DAYS YOU PRACTICE EVERY WEEK.

- a. It is super important to have a weekly schedule of practice days.
- b. Eg. Pick Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 to be your rehearsal days.

### 4. HAVE A SONG ORDER, OR OUTLINE OF WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO BE WORKING ON. (Have a goal in mind). ALSO → HAVE ALL AURAL STRUCTURE AVAILABLE TO SPEED UP REHEARSAL.

- a. Don't go to practice without a plan or a goal.
- b. Write down a quick outline of what you want to accomplish by the end of the practice. This way the practice will be WAY more efficient.
- c. It only takes 2 minutes to do this and it saves HOURS in the long run.

### 5. DON'T BRING FOOD OR DRINKS, EXCEPT FOR THE VOCALIST'S WATER!!!

- a. You'll get grease all over your guitar or drums.
- b. It really sucks when a can of PEPSI gets spilled all over a brand new MESA BOOGIE half stack.
- c. WAIT UNTIL THE MIDPOINT BREAK, OR UNTIL PRACTICE IS DONE, TO HAVE FOOD AND DRINKS. Go out for food with the band after the practice.

### 6. DON'T BRING FRIENDS TO WATCH YOU PRACTICE, ESPECIALLY IN THE EARLY STAGES OF REHEARSING.

- a. Eventually, it's okay to bring people to watch you play your entire set. This is more like a little show.
- b. Never let people hear you when you are learning.
- c. ALSO, friends are really distracting, and many don't know what you are doing.
- d. Get friends to come over after the rehearsal. They like seeing all the gear out. This makes them want to come to a show, TRUST ME!

**7. UNLESS YOU ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO, NEVER LEAVE A FULL BAND PRACTICE EARLY OR COME LATE.**

- a. This should be a time where you are putting everything together. Don't waste this time.
- b. Even if the vocalist is working on their parts, it doesn't exclude you from the practice. You should know exactly what the vocalist is planning to do.

**8. DON'T PLAY ON SOMEONE ELSE'S INSTRUMENT, UNLESS YOU ARE PLAYING IT IN THE SONG.**

- a. Focus on your own parts during the practice. During breaks and after the practice are good times to play on other instruments.

**9. TALK "TO" YOUR BAND MATES, NOT "AT" THEM OR "ABOUT" THEM.**

- a. Most bands break up because of lying and disloyalty.
- b. Be honest with each other.
- c. A band is like a relationship. Don't lie. Don't cheat. Be respectful. Be considerate. If things aren't working out, talk to your band mates.
- d. Fighting is almost inevitable in a band. Never make it personal.
- e. Everything should be about the MUSIC and the rush of PERFORMANCE.

**WHAT YOUR BAND NEEDS TO DECIDE AHEAD OF TIME:**

1. WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE LATE FOR A REHEARSAL?
2. WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOU CANNOT MAKE IT TO A REHEARSAL?
3. WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOU JUST CAN'T PLAY A CERTAIN PART?
4. WHAT HAPPENS IF TWO OR MORE PEOPLE FROM THE BAND CAN'T MAKE IT TO REHEARSAL?
5. PUT ALL BAND MEMBER'S CONTACT INFO IN YOUR BAND BOOK!!!! It helps!! Making a Facebook group is also a great idea. Fans can join your group, making show announcements really easy!

# REHEARSAL ROUTINE AND ADVICE

## REHEARSAL ROUTINE:

### 1. SET UP A HALF HOUR BEFORE START TIME.

- a. This is the prep stage.

### 2. START THE REHEARSAL WITH A COVER or an EASY ORIGINAL.

- a. This gets everybody focuses and dialed in to each other.

### 3. RUN THROUGH THE SONGS THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED ALREADY. (or at least the most recent ones)

- a. This is good for memory. By the time you play the show, you will have performed these songs many, many, times.

### 4. METHOD 1: WHEN LEARNING A NEW SONG, START WITH THE MAIN SECTIONS FIRST (Verse/Chorus). THEN ADD THE OTHER PARTS: (pre-chorus, intro, outro, etc.)

- a. The chorus and verse are the most familiar parts and, most of the time, all of the members have to play

### 5. METHOD 1: USE THE AURAL STRUCTURE AND CHECK OFF THE MAJOR PARTS LEARNED. WORK ON THE TRANSITION BETWEEN PARTS LAST.

- a. The transitions should only be added once the two main sections around it are learned.

### 6. METHOD 2: START WITH THE INTRO AND KEEP ADDING ONE SECTION AT A TIME.

- a. This is great for repetition.

### 7. WHEN LEARNING A NEW SECTION, ADD INSTRUMENTS IN THIS ORDER (PYRAMID OF SOUND):

- a. DRUMS (Foundation)
- b. BASS GUITAR (Foundation)
- c. RHYTHM GUITAR (including solo background)
- d. LEAD GUITAR
- e. ORNAMENTS
- f. VOCALS

### 8. TAKE A 10 minute BREAK HALFWAY INTO THE PRACTICE.

- a. This is good to freshen the mind and give yourself a break from all of the noise.

### 9. MAKE SURE EVERYONE KNOWS WHEN THE NEXT REHEARSAL IS.

- a. This is the best time, because everybody is present. You don't want to have to call everybody later.