You are finally getting offered to perform live and you need to know some professional lingo

- **Advance** – Information about your performance (day, date, time, load-in time, sound check time, performance time and performance length) is provided by the venue or promoter.
- **Stage Plot** – Band provides a pictorial showing placement of each musician, vocal microphone, amplifier, drums and other acoustic instruments.  Acoustic guitar direct boxes (DI's) should be noted.
- **Back line –** equipment like drums (shells and stands only) , guitar and bass amps if any for your use.
- **Load-in** – time before your performance to load in your band equipment, usually includes instructions like where to park, what door, how much time or cutoff time.
- **Sound check time** – this assumes load in is complete and you are set up and ready to perform.
- **Line checks only** – this means you plug in and play, no sound check before the show but you verify your instrument is in the PA and working (you can hear it).
- **DI** - direct inputs, this allows a guitar to "go direct" into the PA system Vs. a guitar amplifier.
- **Mains** – Stage PA or PA system main speakers in front, AKA Front of House (FOH).
- **Stage monitors** – (a.k.a. Wedges or monitors these provide sound for the band to hear themselves (vocals and other stuff).
- **Production staff** – Stage manager, typically a sound engineer, stage crew, might also include lighting director or person.  Get their names and write them down or memorize the engineer's name.

## Stage Tips

- All band members need to pay attention, make eye contact with fellow band members and listen.
- Position the singer furthest away from the drums but clear visual line-of-sight.
- Vocalists need to hear themselves singing, stage monitors (aka Wedges or Monitors) must be close, typically right below the singers, pointed up to your ears.
- During sound check vocals should be much louder than you expect as the noise level from the audience rises during the show, the vocals will still be audible.
- During sound check you can ask the sound engineer to "put more of my vocal in my monitor"
- During the show, you can point to the mic using a vertical hand motion thumbs-up to ask for more.  You can also verbally ask the engineer (by name) for more vocal in your monitor between songs.
- The microphone should always be pointing away from the speakers but If the vocals or any other open microphone is raised too loud, it might start feedback
- Some acoustic guitars typically cause a howling type of low frequency feedback – never set down your guitar without turning down the volume pot on the instrument.
- If you can't hear an instrument in sound check it will only get worse, get the levels set so you can hear everyone in the band on stage.  Its ok to ask someone to turn up or down.
- If a guitar amplifier is too loud, it causes everyone to play louder and the FOH can't fix that – everyone should play at moderate levels and let the sound system and engineer raise the volume.
- If a drummer is too loud, it causes everyone to play louder and the FOH can't fix that – the drummer should play at reasonable levels.
- Always line check your instrument prior to starting your set or song.  Remember to turn your volume back up when returning to the stage.  Always turn down your amp volume prior to unplugging an instrument.
- After the first song, Introduce yourself and thank everyone for coming out.  Introduce your band mates midway through the set.
- Announce your last song, thank your bandmates, the venue and the production team by name.
- If other bands are following you, get off the stage quickly, take your gear unless you are sharing gear.