

### You are ready to form a band

- A band format can get you more valuable gigs than solo performances.
- Bands garner more attention, more growth in fans and more opportunities.
- Bands can be fun, especially if you create an environment for everyone's success.
- Band mates need to gel, if friction exists everyone gets burned.
- Build a band with musicians who like your vision and music and enjoy playing it.
- Avoid band mates that expect to be paid for rehearsals.
- Avoid band mates that expect to be paid at every gig (or any gig...ha ha)
- Screen potential bandmates for availability, motivations and experience.
- Band members need to audition, pick the most talented players who are nice people.
- Successful artists hold regular band rehearsals.
- Starting a band is hard work early on. Weekly, or bi-weekly rehearsals are necessary.
- Bands should have at least a one-hour show but strive for two sets of material (2x45 mins)
- Bands should have a leader but all members must contribute in some way

### Organizational Tips

- Best to have one rehearsal space, on fixed day of the week to improve flow. Bandmate's basement?
- Rehearsal is best with a permanent setup. Drums, a small PA, guitar and bass amps to be efficient. This might mean having two sets of gear.
- Create a set list in Google Sheets; the columns should include song number, song title, tempo, key, guitar capo position, guitar notes, keys notes, bass notes and drum notes. Each member should put their own notes on their respective column. Reminder on who starts, count in, hard stops, drop outs, ending, etc.
- Bands should use Google Drive, Google docs and Google calendar to manage their activity.
- Put all rehearsals, events, gigs and other commitments on the Band's Google calendar
- Band members can add work commitments, vacations and personal time away to block out dates.

### Rehearsal Tips

- The songwriter should send scratch tracks out for the bandmates to practice to.
- Individual band members should be practicing and rehearsing on their own
- Rehearsal is not the time to learn the tune, learn how to play a riff or learn a new drum beat
- Once rehearsal starts, announce your song by title so everyone can refer to the notes.
- 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. If you can't hear the vocals, the singer can't either.
- If any bandmate is too loud, it causes everyone to play louder and loud isn't helpful – all should play at reasonable levels.
- Recording rehearsals is a good idea once the songs have good form.
- When a song is not taking shape smoothly in rehearsal, table it for next rehearsal and move on.
- Avoid blaming each other when something goes wrong (something always goes wrong).
- Never point out someone's mistake, they probably know it happened. Work on it together.
- If the music doesn't feel or sound good, its best to work together at resolving the issue.
- Slowly add instrumental parts to ideas; best with guitar/keys, then bass, then drums and so on.
- Guitarists need to work together and know their parts. Stay in your lane – don't step on the vocal melody
- Drummers use a metronome; everyone should follow the drummer's tempo and tag downbeats.
- Thank your bandmates at the end of each rehearsal and gig – their time is very valuable.