

# Essential Planning Tools for Music Performance Tour Providers

*Presented by  
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*Festivals of Music/Music In The Parks  
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# How are music groups different from other traveling groups?

- They are a wider range in terms of participant numbers
- They are more likely to travel to a different place each time
- Their frequency of travel pattern may be only once every two, three or four years
- If it is a full department (band, choir, and orchestra) you are likely to have more “chiefs”
- It’s like having children...it’s not the kids, it’s all the stuff!

# Types of Performance Experiences

## ***Competitive Festivals***

- Groups perform independently
- Are rated or ranked in comparison to each other and/or a set of standards
- Awards are usually presented
- Examples:
  - Festivals of Music, Music In The Parks, or similar events
  - Locally sponsored or state level events

# Types of Performance Experiences

## ***Non-Competitive Festivals/Events***

- Groups perform independently
- Are NOT rated or ranked
- Sometimes prestigious, by invitation
- Examples:
  - Major parades like Macy's Thanksgiving and Tournament of Roses
  - Music for All National Festival
  - Disney Performing Arts
- Have a "Plan B" in case group isn't accepted

# Types of Performance Experiences

## ***Collaborative Festivals***

- Groups usually perform together as part of a larger massed group
- Will usually involve rehearsal time for the massed group along with the performance experience
- Often with a renowned guest conductor
- May also have an additional independent performance opportunity

# Types of Performance Experiences

## ***Collaborative Festivals – Examples***

- Bowl game halftime performances for bands
- Combined choir performances held in major concert halls
- Massed ensemble performances surrounding a special event like Pearl Harbor Anniversary, Veteran's Day, or similar



# Process for Festival/Event Involvement Varies

- Could be simply “register and pay”
- Could have an application and selection process involving sending in audition recording and group resumes
- Programs like Macy’s or Rose Parade have very long processes where groups may be accepted 16 months or more in advance
- Higher level, selective events are worked towards over the course of many years

# Types of Performance Experiences

## ***Clinics***

- Groups work with a specialist for extended period of time (typically 60-90 minutes)
- Intent is to be an educational experience and improve upon abilities
- Not a formal performance, but an informal “classroom” setting

## ***Public Performances***

- Performance in a public venue, often at an attraction (museum, theme park, cathedral, etc.)
- May require purchase of admission to the venue as part of the performance
- May have performance restrictions



# What to ask about any performance experience

## ***Potential Audience***

- Who might be in the audience
- What publicity if any is done
- Is it a formal, seated audience area or informal space with no seating
- Are tickets sold to the public
- Do my chaperones need tickets

## ***Stage Space***

- How large is the stage area
- Is there an offstage area (wings)
- Is the stage raised or on floor level, tiered or flat, etc.
- Is sound reinforcement (sound shell, amplification) available
- Is electricity available

# What to ask about any performance experience

## ***Venue***

- When may you have access to the location to prepare
- Are there changing facilities
- Is there a place to store belongings
- How is ingress/egress facilitated
- Is the area and performance space ADA compliant
- When do we need to be finished and cleared from the location

## ***Equipment***

- What needs to be rented
- What is available on site
  - Piano
  - Choral risers
  - Large concert percussion
  - Sound equipment (microphones, speakers, sound board, etc.)
  - Chairs
  - Music stands

# Factors for considering what works best for your group

- Performance goals for their tour
- Size of the group and space needed
- What type of ensemble
- What type of repertoire they are planning to perform
- Budget available
- Amount of time available

*Multiple ensembles may mean multiple experiences to best fit the goals, and more time needed to accomplish those objectives.*

# Equipment Needs and Care: Instrumental

## ***Transport of Equipment***

- Handle with care; all instruments are fragile items and subject to damage that could lead to costly repairs
- Avoid temperature extremes – both hot and cold – when storing on a bus or truck

# Equipment Needs and Care: Instrumental

## *Storage of Instruments*

- Storage room at hotel is usually best, particularly for large instruments and similar large items (uniform crates, etc.)
- Small instruments (flutes, clarinets, violins) usually best kept in their rooms
- Make sure it is temperature controlled
- Make sure it is secure, with key access limited



# If flying, consider a cost analysis of checked baggage fees vs. overland transportation

## ***If flying, evaluate baggage costs for:***

- Heavy and oversize checked instruments
- Checked bag costs for regular size instruments
- Costs for luggage
- Costs for uniform containers
- Cost for equipment truck on site
- Cost for rental of large instruments that can't fly

## ***Compared to overland transport costs:***

- Truck rental overland, including fuel
- Driver costs (paid service or housing and meals for volunteers enroute)
- Putting checked baggage on a truck as well may make this cost effective overall
- Remember: Limited access to instruments before the performance



# Consider on-site large instrument rentals

## ***What you usually CAN rent:***

- Large concert percussion equipment
- Drum set
- String basses
- Cellos (limited)
- Pianos
- Sound equipment

## ***What you usually CANNOT rent:***

- Tubas
- Euphoniums/baritones
- Marching band percussion
- Large woodwind instruments  
(baritone saxophone, bass clarinet)

# Equipment Needs and Care: Choral

## ***Care of “instruments”***

- Water is needed to stay hydrated at clinics, rehearsals, and performances
- Outdoor time (if colder weather) can effect voices
- Consider putting “screaming days” after their primary performance whenever possible
  - Theme park visits
  - Attending sporting events
  - Exciting loud events or concerts

*If transporting choir robes or performance wear; you may need a storage room with clothing racks*

# Equipment Needs and Care: Choral

***Equipment needs are usually rentals***

- Piano
- Choral risers (either arc for concert groups or platform for show choirs)
- Sound reinforcement (sound system with microphones)
- Possible needs if they have instrumental accompaniment
  - Rhythm section (drum set, amps, keyboards)
  - Music stands and possibly chairs

# Rehearsal space needs while traveling

## ***At the hotel***

- Inside rehearsal room:
  - How large is the space
  - How high is the ceiling (to allow for sound volume)
  - Are there pillars in the way
- Are there time restrictions out of courtesy to other guests—particularly for a marching band rehearsing outside in the parking lot
- Are items like piano or chairs available, and do they cost extra
- What will be the extra cost of the rehearsal space
- Can the rehearsal space be taken away with little or no advance notice (due to other business)

# Rehearsal space needs while traveling

## ***At other locations***

- Are permits needed (particularly for outdoor marching band space)
- Could there be issues related to sound or being on a public street or field where police security should be consulted and/or hired
- If at an indoor location (such as a school or church) could a space be taken away with little or no advance notice
  - School events: usually district groups take priority
  - Church events: funerals in particular
- Always remember water to keep musicians hydrated



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# Questions?

*Thank you for your time today!  
Best wishes on the coming tour season.*

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