

ACCESS AND BEYOND

Creating Welcoming Live Music Experiences for Blind and Visually Impaired Audiences

BEFORE THE SHOW



Recorded Description: Collaborate with the venue to prepare recorded audio description accessible online or by phone. You can describe the band, your music, stage layout, instruments, lighting, and other visual production elements.

Check Digital Accessibility: Your website and promotional emails should conform to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, preferably WCAG 2.2 Level AA. Search for “W3C WAI Easy Checks accessibility”



AT THE VENUE



Tactile Tours: Collaborate with the venue to provide a pre-concert tour where fans can touch instruments, costumes, props, or stage elements. You can also describe the performers and where they are positioned onstage.

ON STAGE

Use Visual Descriptions: When introducing yourself and other musicians, identify where each person is located on stage. Phrases like “On my right, wearing a bright green shirt...”, “to my left, sitting on a stool wearing a smart navy blue jacket...” or “Behind me at the piano, with the yellow socks you cannot miss...” can help fans build a mental map and image of the performers, without interrupting the flow of the performance.



Bring People In: Remember that not all fans can see what’s happening on stage. It’s a good idea to narrate reactions to physical action. For example, you could say “for those who missed it, I almost dropped my guitar,” to put the audible audience response in context.

Preserve Spatial Cues: Blind and low-vision fans may use spatial auditory cues to understand where performers are located. During introductions or pre-show orientation, consider having each musician speak, or play briefly from their stage position, using little or no sound reinforcement.

