

## **The Working Musicians' Gig Checklist... by Geri Rizzo**

Performing for a gig, especially a wedding, is always exciting but can be nerve racking.

I like to take a slogan from my Girl Scout days... "Be Prepared!", because even under the best of circumstances, things can go awry.

So prepare in advance, thinking of what you need and what you may need "just in case". Forewarned is forearmed, but one isn't always as well informed as one might like to be!

### **Before the Gig**

. Make sure you have this information:

- Time, place, contact name and cell phone.
- Location and address: Is it inside or outside?
- Are there electrical outlets available in either case?
- If outside, is there shade or something overhead to protect you and your instrument from the sun?
- If outside, is there a plan "b" location / address in case of rain?
- If you are working with other musicians and not traveling together, be sure to have their cell phones available as well.

### **MAPS and GPS's**

It's always a good idea to use both. With new construction and GPS updates possibly not performed, it's best to be careful. If the location is less than a half hour away and unfamiliar, why not check it out ahead of time?

It's a good idea to print the map from your home to the gig address right away and either clip it to the contract, or to your calendar for that day. It's one less thing you will have to remember the day of the gig!

Note: As with cell phones, looking at a GPS intently or a map while driving can cause an accident. Be sure to pull off to the side of the road if you are having a problem that requires your attention. Arrive alive!

**THE NIGHT BEFORE THE GIG, assemble the following:**

- . Your printed directions from Mapquest, Google Maps, Yahoo Maps or Rand McNally.
- . The contract, if any.
- . Bring the list of songs or any special instructions from the bride.  
*Good idea:* Mark these on the back of the contract
- . Put all needed music in your gig bag.
- . Charge your cell phone / GPS / amplifiers and camera (if you are bringing it).
- . Gas up the car!

**DAY OF THE GIG Final Checklist:**

***Your Gig Bag and/or another "tote bag" filled with:***

- . Your instrument and a back up instrument.
- . Business Cards and/or brochures
- . Music, in order of requests
- . Copy of contract
- . Directions
- . Water Bottle
- . Tissues

**\*EQUIPMENT:**

- . Speakers... It's a good idea to have two and bring the extra just in case. You never know if yours may not work, or if the officiant or someone else may need one.
- . The correct wires for the speakers
- . Microphone (s).. bring an extra if you have one
- . Microphone Stand
- . Long extension cord and electrical outlet strip.
- . Music Stand

Being ready for the gig makes playing the gig so much easier, and you will leave confidently and upbeat from a job well done! Happy Gigging!

