

The Rob Falk 10 Item Band Tool Box

You're a professional musician. You sound good, look good and show up on time. There are certain things you know you need, and certain things you will not leave home without. Here is a list of ten more things you should have in place and packed away if you are serious about your future and your direction.

1. Formal Business Organization

Clear organization avoids trouble and can help managing taxes and other types of liability. Who are you?

2. Intra Band Agreement

When it was just pure fun, you didn't even need a handshake.

3. Song Writers' Agreements

You need clear agreements before your group strides out of the garage. How do we keep George and Ringo happy?

4. Employee/Independent Contractor Agreements

Explicit agreements eliminate hassles and confusion early, perhaps lawsuits and worse later on. Who is working for whom? Just what is the job?

5. Performance Agreement and Rider

A simple performance agreement and rider help you to get what was promised at your gigs. Unless of course you don't mind always moving the drums and eating that green baloney . . .

6. Confidentiality Agreements

People *love* to talk. If they work for the band, they shouldn't be telling the world your secrets, now or ever.

7. Photographers' Agreements

People love to take pictures. Large numbers of photographs will be taken over time. With proper agreements in place, you can maintain considerable control over these pictures and their use.

You just saw yourself *where*? On *what*??

8. Talent Releases

Properly written releases and agreements are important for recording sessions and the video shoot. Everyone will want to be there, and you will be happy they are at your side. Years later, you will be able to use that material, the terms will be clear, and you will not find yourself hunting desperately for clearance from a missing friend.

9. Copyright and Trademark Registration

You wrote it, you named it, and you own it. Keep it that way. Copyright and trademark filings can be tricky, but the protection they afford you is worth more than their weight in gold.

10. Archives

You are an artist. As you succeed, your work becomes increasingly collectible. You should have the best collection of all. A well-organized archive allows you to make money, over and over again.

You can find more detailed information about all of this, and much more, at <http://www.robalklaw.com>

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