

# Big Bob's Top Ten Tips for Aspiring Artists!

1. Don't be shy...meet people...introduce yourself to everyone (pick your time so as not to be a nuisance). The business is built on contacts and networking. Learn from everyone and share your experiences.
2. You are about to walk on stage carrying a guitar. Did you check that there was a D.I. box to plug it in to and did you look to see if there was a lead already there for you?
3. Will the band be able to follow your charts? Look at the music and put yourself in their shoes. If you'd never heard the song before, would the chart make sense to you? If it's written with a thick pen, can you tell the difference between G, C and E?
4. Even if you recorded the song in the key of C#, can you sing it in C or D? Sure it's easy to play with a capo on *your* guitar but do you really want to make life harder for the band? No, you want to make it easier!
5. Get a website or at least a page in a directory or a "MySpace" page...somewhere where agents and fans can find you.
6. Don't spend a fortune on a website and then not update it. Pretty animated graphics look nice but are no help if your gig guide is weeks out of date.
7. Make sure your bio and hi-resolution publicity photo can be downloaded from your site or at the very least; always have them ready to be emailed when asked. If an agent wants to book you they will want instant action and don't want you saying "...well I think I can borrow a camera and..."
8. When you are doing a radio interview don't refer to your CD as "product" or "merchandise". The audience needs to feel it is a work of art, not just a money making endeavour.
9. Never eat peanuts before playing the harmonica!
10. Be true to your heart and follow your dream...

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