

Finding Musicians

Introduction

We live in a city with tens of thousands of musicians.
So where's the **one** I need?

Finding the right musicians, at the right time, in the right place ... that's the hardest part of the music business, hands down.

This handout will give you a few tips that might make it easier.

- Making the pitch
 - Using your contacts
 - Classifieds (Web & Print)
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The Pitch

When you're looking for something specific, let people know up front. You'll waste less time. Don't assume people know what you want.

Make sure to mention:

- Instrument & level (beginner, advanced, etc)
- Style(s) or Influences
- Expectations (i.e. casual jamming, regular gigging, touring, etc.)

Spell this all out when you contact people, and you'll get better results.

Bad:

"Hey guys - we need a drummer! Help!"

Good:

"Hey guys - my band Motley Joe is seeking a new drummer. We play a mixture of acid metal and chinese speed punk opera, so the drummer needs to be fast and have 3 arms (if possible). We gig about twice a month, but we're working on a new EP to try to get serious industry attention and, if possible, tour nationally within a year or two. We'd like the drummer to be a collaborative part of the songwriting. We need someone in right away because we've got a show on the 26th. Suggestions would be really helpful. Thanks!"

Finding Musicians

Your Contacts

The best way to find musicians is through a mutual acquaintance. They know you both, and can probably see a good fit. Don't be afraid to ask!

Put it out there ...

- The easy way: do a group email (BCC) out to all your musician contacts
- The better way: email people one at a time, and / or call them on the phone.

Do likewise ...

- If you know somebody else who's looking for musicians, take 5 minutes and go through your contacts and see if you think any of them might be a good fit.
- This is good karma. They may help you someday ...

Speaking of contacts ...

- Do you keep your contact list up to date?
 - I keep mine in excel (you can filter on the "instrument" column)
 - There are better ways if you're not an excel geek (e.g. LiveWireMusician.com).
 - Also good to track: genre(s), email / phone, band name, notes
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Classifieds

Here are some web sites that have busy classified sections for musicians:

Web:

Craigslist

<http://houston.craigslist.com/>

BackPage.com

<http://houston.backpage.com/musician/classifieds/>

HoustonBands.net

<http://houstonbands.net/gigs.html>

SpaceCityRock.com

<http://www.spacecityrock.com/classifieds.html>

Meetup.com

<http://musicians.meetup.com/1/>

JazzHouston.com

<http://www.jazzhouston.com/artists/>

- It actually has lots of musicians who play other stuff, too.

BandMix

<http://www.bandmix.com/>

- You pay in order to contact people, but you can post for free

Hands Up Houston

http://members.boardhost.com/hands_up/

AFM union

<http://www.afmhouston.com/>

- Mostly symphony musicians, some jazz

CommunityMusician.com

<http://houston.communitymusician.com/>

MusiciansConnected.com

<http://www.musiciansconnected.com>

Print:

Houston Music News

- Contact Kevin Wildman (musicnew@airmail.net)
- Ads are \$10 for 30 words (monthly paper)
- Email anytime with news on your band and they'll print it

Houston Press Classifieds – Email classified@houstonpress.com for rates.

Chronicle - Weekday paper, 26.40 per line per day (min 3 lines); Sunday 34.76.