

The Raleigh Ringers

Technical Needs

Contacts for questions:

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Space

- 24 feet deep by 36 feet wide is the minimum performing space.
- The area must be level and clear of all obstructions.
- Please measure and confirm the dimensions of the performing space, ideally sending a photo of the venue via e-mail.

Sound

- A sound technician trained to operate your venue's system available to test the setup and determine levels, arriving 2.5 hours before show time to set-up and check levels. At some venues, this person is also the lighting technician. The person available for setup level checks should also be the person working the sound for the show.
- One handheld microphone for announcements between songs. Preferably a switched mic in a stand, so the director can turn the mic on and off between announcements.
- If at all possible, an acoustic shell behind the performers.
- If possible, communication method from back stage to the lighting & sound tech(s).
- Ability to play CDs through sound system (for pre-show music, group introduction CD, our "Rock introduction CD"). Alternatively, we can provide cassettes for this purpose.
 - There are 3 CDs: Pre-show music, Walk-on introduction, Rock introduction
 - Pre-show music
 - Duration 30 or 45 minutes, starting at either 30 or 45 minutes before show time.
 - Level = low level, background music, allowing the audience to talk before the show. The level must not be too high for the people nearest the speakers to talk.
 - Walk-on introduction
 - Level is set based on the announcer's voice near the end of the track.
 - Typical sequence of events:
 - Pre-show CD ends
 - Start confirmation
 - Announcer/speaker, if any, is on stage and gets a confirmation that the Ringers are ready to start.
 - If no announcer or speaker is planned, confirmation comes from The RRs that we are ready to begin.
 - Optional – Announcements by the venue and/or sponsor
 - Start Walk-on introduction CD (1 track). The Walk-on CD has a specific ending. DO NOT fade out the music even if all the ringers are on stage.
 - Rock introduction

- Used in the 2nd half of the concert
- Level is set based on the announcer's voice near the end of the track. The level is set as high as possible, without damaging the sound system, or the ears of the audience. A RR should be available to help set this level.
- This CD needs to be cued up in advance, in pause mode, ready to go when the start cue is shouted. A test is recommended.
- Start cue: Roadie unveils a Lava Lamp on stage, and then shouts "Start the music" or something of that effect. Start the CD after the Roadie says "music." If you can't hear the verbal cue, start the music 3 seconds after you see the Lava Lamp.
- Typical sequence of events before the start cue:
 - The director talks about rock and roll on handbells
 - The ringers leave the stage
 - The director leaves the stage
 - A Roadie comes out in a black T-shirt, sometimes with helpers, pretending to prepare the stage.
 - The Roadie turns on the strobe light and artificial flames
 - Eventually the Roadie goes to the Lava Lamp and unveils it.
 - Immediately after unveiling the **Lava Lamp**, the Roadie says "**Start the music!**"
- No amplification of performers, unless absolutely necessary. (larger venues)
 - Amplification, when used, requires a minimum of 20 minutes of test once set-up is 100% completed.
 - Microphones should be condenser or electret-condenser, with cardioid or supercardioid patterns, supported by shock mounts to isolate them from floor noises. A minimum of 6 mics is recommended, with stands allowing placement at a height of 5 feet from the stage floor. Mic positioning.
 - Equalization for each mic channel should begin flat, rolling off frequencies as needed during the sound check.
- Level check summary
 - A RR will be available to help determine the levels in the venue.
 - If there is no amplification used, then there are typically 4 level checks:
 - Announcement mic for the director
 - Pre-show music CD
 - Walk-on introduction CD
 - Rock introduction CD
- Recording
 - If the venue makes any audio or video recordings of the concert, they should provide one copy to The Raleigh Ringers, Inc.
 - At some concerts, we may record our performances. The equipment is totally standalone and requires no assistance or equipment from the venue. On some occasions we use a 115 VAC outlet for these recordings.

Power

- Grounded (preferred) 115 VAC power outlet locations at the stage, identified when we arrive. We can work with just one 15 A outlet on stage, but more is always better.

- What we plug in:
 - Strobe light
 - 2 special effects lights (artificial flame)
 - Note: we often turn the strobe and special effects lights on ourselves. At some larger venues, these would be controlled by the lighting technician.
 - Lava lamp (typically near the front stage right (audience left))
 - Fog machine (when permitted)
 - Electric musical instrument (Schulmerich MelodyWave)
- Grounded (preferred) 115 VAC power outlets for our sales, usually in the lobby – cash register.

Lighting

- If the venue has lighting options, a lighting technician trained to operate your venue's system needs to be available 2 hours before show time for set-up and lighting checks. At some venues, this person is also the sound technician. The person available for setup checks should also be the person operating the system during the show.
- Before the concert
 - A low level general wash on stage that hits all the tables and all the bells that are stored behind the group.
 - House lights are up near or at full.
- Start of concert – lighting cue
 - Low level (around 10%, or perhaps only the RR gobo(s) lit), on cue, the walk-on CD starts, performers enter the stage. The recorded music says “Ladies and Gentlemen, Introducing, from Raleigh NC, The Raleigh Ringers” – when the applause starts, bring all lights up to 100% - full wash.
- During the concert
 - A general wash that hits all the tables, and all the bells that are stored behind the group.
 - There may be a concern about lights hitting the eyes of the ringers, to be checked during the set-up.
 - House lights are out.
- Between songs in the concert
 - When the director makes announcements, light the director, while fading down the tables and ringers as they get set-up for the next piece.
 - House lights are out.
- Intermission – same as before the concert.
- During the 2nd half of the program, we'll do our “rock” segment.
 - We would like the light crew to do whatever they can to give the "rock show" appearance. Lights on and off, lots of colors, strobes, etc.
 - They have the freedom to do whatever they want here, as long as they always leave the lights up enough for us to see our music.
- For larger venues:

- We have 1 (or 2) gobos with our logo on them, which we'd like to use if there is a surface appropriate to project them onto.
- We have a plexiglass sign and would like to have it "up lit" from the floor with whatever colors seem appropriate. A purple type color has been effective at many venues.

Other

- For venues where we use the plexi sign, we'll need two step ladders (6' or greater, if possible) to help hang the sign. If it is possible to "fly" the sign, that is the preferred method of using it.