

# Communicating Your Audio Needs

Telling an audio technician that you “need a microphone” can be a recipe for disaster. Your best bet as a performer is to let the audio technician (AT) figure out the best way to meet your needs.

## **Think about Your Needs:**

YOU NEED TO BE HEARD!

*This is what the AT understands when you say “I need a microphone”. The simple truth is that the microphone is one part of a sound system, and the sound reinforcement is what you really need.*

## **Think about your performance:**

Are you speaking?  
Are you singing?  
Will you be moving around or dancing?  
Do you have instruments? How Many? What kind?

*This information is used by the AT to determine how many microphones to use, and which type is best. The location of microphones on stage, as well as the number of open microphones, is important for feedback control.*

## **Think about your environment:**

Indoors?  
Outdoors?  
Big room, small room?  
Solid walls?  
Any acoustic dampening?

*This information is used by the AT to determine what size of a sound reinforcement system you will need. This is critical information for equipment selection.*

## **Think about your audience:**

How many people?  
Older crowd, younger crowd?  
Sparse or Dense?  
Lively, loud or quiet?

*This information is used by the AT to determine sound levels and acoustic equalization for the area. The AT can do amazing things with the right kind of equipment. Higher frequencies can be boosted to help the hearing impaired. Effects can be added to enhance, or even change your voice.*