4 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR BAND SOUND GREAT

KEY PRINCIPLES THAT WILL LIFT YOUR SOUND

DAN WILT

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1. NAIL THE ESSENTIALS.

Grab the mp3, and get everybody to *listen*. Forget what you know. Your licks. Your skills. Your vibrato. Listen to what your part is doing, and learn from professionals who are being recorded for a reason. Listening to others is 9/10 of making great music. Listen. Train yourself and your team to listen first, and play later.

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2. APPROXIMATE FEEL AND GROOVE.

What instruments do you have in your arsenal, what skills are in your band, that can get close to the energy of what is being played? You don't have 6 layers of guitars. What will work to serve the song? What approximates the vibe, without trying to replicate the exact sound?

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3. HONOR MUSICAL SPACE.

Resist the urge to get everyone piling on the song to recreate energy and density. It's not a musical way to play together. The original song does not need to be *replicated*, but rather *approximated*. Create space using the **fraction principle.**

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4. WHAT YOU HAVE IS ENOUGH.

Once you have decided you don't need to be Coldplay, you are free to make a unique, spacious, tight sound with the instrumentation you have. *Small* may be *all* you need. Large can be great, if people obey the fraction principle, and honor the need for more arrangement.

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