

# Engineering and Creating a MONITOR MIX

1. The MONITOR MIX is the most important mix that is set up - without question! If the musicians cannot hear and cue off of each other we won't have a main mix to work with!
2. Remember...LESS IS MORE! Only gain items which need to be heard in the monitors, not everything. Remember that adding anything, changes every mix onstage for everyone.
3. Controlling stage volume is critical for obtaining a clear mix. Have guitarists gain on-stage amps as low as possible.
4. Pay attention to stage setup. Arrange stage in a way that allows the monitor mix to be heard. Separate high gain instruments from low gain instruments.
5. Position monitor wedges/cabinets correctly. If a musician is not in the field for a monitor wedge, they cannot hear it.
6. The answer for a muddy mix is not to TURN UP what you can't hear, it is to TURN DOWN as much as possible.
7. Work to obtain in-ear monitors/headphone mixes for backline players: drummers, keyboards, and bass players. This will help tremendously with stage volume.
8. Give the lead singer his/her own mix if possible, with their voice and a pitch related instrument in the mix ONLY.
9. Backing singers and choirs need to hear clearly the pitches of the accompanying instrument (organ, piano, guitars). This is the only way to have good intonation in vocals.
10. Do not allow an on stage musician to dictate the mix for everyone (unless its the leader). Leave FOH and go onstage to hear the mix for yourself!
11. Get the monitor mix right in REHEARSAL. There is nothing worse than a musician asking for monitor adjustments after the show or service has started. At that point, you are not going to have a good mix!

