

# COFFEE WITH Camilla

Hey Creatives!

You're listening to **Podcast #39 of the Coffee With Camilla** podcast where we will discuss the music industry.

I'm your host Camilla Kleindienst of Banner Music in Nashville TN

The title of this podcast is ***"You Can Still Pull It Off"***.

When things are not going right on stage at your performance, you can still pull off a great show if you are prepared. You can't control everything about your show but you can control YOU!

Here's what I'm talking about. In the last few weeks I've been involved with some shows where things went wrong which was a real challenge for the performers involved. Some of the performances came off so well and only the artist and team behind the scenes know what was happening. Other shows, not so well.

Facing challenges while you are on stage, putting on a show, is really hard because the audience is there and normally you can't just stop the show and take care of the problem. You have to keep engaging the audience as best you can and let your team members or the professionals on staff work and find the solution.

You have to keep your head on and remind yourself you are there to entertain the audience. The show is not for you, it's for your audience.

A few days ago my husband Daniel guest performed for a show. He was performing as a utility player and background vocals There was absolutely nothing about this show that Daniel (or me) was in control of. And the sound for the entire performance was off. The whole first song had feedback, either a low rumble or high ear piercing screech. The audience was jumpy and the band had

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to find a way to continue to perform. The sound engineer was trying his best to fix the problem. The sound engineer couldn't stop the show and fix the problem. This event had one band after another and there was a tight schedule. Everyone involved had to deal with the problem as the performance went on.

How did the band handle it? They played the best they could with NO monitors AT ALL. They added a little humor (not directed to the sound or the problems), they focused on each other and their own contributions to the band. The vocalist stayed focused on their vocal performance. They pulled through it and Pulled It Off.

Because my husband Daniel was brought on as a guest utility player there was no AER, (After Event Review) with the band, management or team members. But Daniel and I discussed the event and performance on our way home. We concluded that the band itself pretty much did everything they could have done at the time on the stage during the show. But here is what should have happened before the show:

- Sound engineer should have tested the equipment and went through a better run through and sound check prior to show time. A lot of what he dealt with during the show where Daniel performed was resolved between band 1 and band 2 performed. And the 2nd band had a much better sound than band 1 had. Therefore the conclusion is, had the engineer worked through a solid and thorough sound check with band 1 (the band Daniel played with), the technical difficulties would have been worked out before showtime.
- The band members who struggled the very most with the sound issues haven't really prepared themselves in their private practice time. I have seen this time and again in my career. Every musician should be practicing their instrument when they are home alone. Alone practice time is ABSOLUTELY necessary if you want to be a top notch musician. But a lot of talented musicians make the fatal mistake of practicing and running through riffs and songs alone WITH no timing meter; no metronome or

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without practicing and playing with a recorded track. Therefore, you have these musicians who know the songs, they know their instrument well, they know the required riffs but they have no or little concept of TIMING in their performances. They rely heavily on the bass or drums or percussion instruments to guide their personal performance. So when there are sound system and monitor issues, they are lost and frustrated.

But with proper preparation, You can Still Pull Of A GREAT or reasonably good show when there are sound problems. Remember, the audience is really your judge. If the audience enjoys your show, you are a winner! So how you and your band handles sound problems or any problems for that matter will determine whether or not your audience has a great experience.

Here is a list of things that COULD happen to you but YOU MUST overcome and STILL PULL OF a great show:

You break a string, or your instrument cord has a short in it. The tube goes out in the amp, the DI box quits working, the monitors are shot or non existent, the street out front is getting paved so nobody can load in from the front door, there are not enough electrical outlets for the band to function, the venue owner forgot you were coming and double booked bands, your agent failed to tell you the show was delayed by 2 hours, your drummer got food poisoning 2 hours before the show, your band trailer got stolen last night, your girlfriend is mad cuz you are out of town too much and she called screaming at you 10 minutes before the show

There are more - that is a list a few -

But you are the entertainer - The show must go on and YOU CAN STILL PULL IT OFF! But you have to dig deep and be tough and figure it out.

Thank you for listening to Podcast #39 ***“You Can Still Pull It Off”***. I know as the musician or performing artist you just want to make beautiful music and push everything else aside. That would be nice. But unfortunately nobody at the front

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of their career can do that. You have to handle things that are coming at you from all directions and ALSO Pull of a great show.

I know you can do it. I believe in you!

Please don't forget to **SUBSCRIBE & SHARE** this podcast with your songwriter, musician and performing artist friends.

Look for show notes on my website: **CoffeeWithCamilla.com**  
We'll talk again soon! Stay Creative!