



# General Thoughts And Session Planning Tips

## 1. What are your goals and what is the aim of your session?

- To record a demo for a songwriting contest?
- To record a demo to get live gigs?
- To record a song for an EP or album?

## 2. Is your song well thought out and planned for the recording?

- Do you have an accurate chord sheet?
- Do you know where you will adlib in the song?
- Do you have a plan for the **beginning** and **ending** of the song?
- Do you know where instrumental's/solo's will be and are they included in your chord sheet?
- Have you thought about background vocals and what will be sung where?
- Do you know the tempo and time signature of your song (i.e., 90 bpm, 4/4)?
- Do you have an MP3 recording of your song for reference? (not required, but it helps)
- Do you have an MP3 reference recording of a song that has a similar tone and feel to your song? (again, not required, but helpful. At the very least, do you have a YouTube link to a reference song?)

## 3. Are vocalist and instrumentalist ready to record? (maybe you are both)

- Do you know the lyrics?
- Have you practiced your parts?
- Do you know the tone/tones you will use throughout the song?
- Vocalist, do you have throat spray should you need it?
- Do you know the chord modulations (if any)?
- Do you have new strings on your instruments, are your instruments tuned and ready to go?
- Have you rehearsed and do you know the changes?
- It's worth repeating: Have you thought about the **beginning** and **ending** of your song?

## 4. Are you prepared for a comfortable session?

- I would note that if you have addressed all the tips above, your confidence should be high and your anxiety (if any) low.
- Do you have realistic expectation of the time needed to demo your song? (I try to be flexible)
- Do you have any snacks or drinks that you might want ?