



The Ten Jammandments

I. THOU SHALT TUNE THY INSTRUMENT.

If people are giving you sour looks, tune that thing!

II. THOU SHALT KEEP STEADY RHYTHM.

Listen to the bass and rhythm players, and stick with them.

III. THOU SHALT TAKE TURNS CHOOSING SONGS.

Announce the key. Vocalists always get to pick the key for their songs, even if it's in F! If no one knows the song, pick another 'un.

IV. THOU SHALT NOT SPEED.

Start songs at reasonable tempos.
Don't be afraid to say, "Can we slow down?"

V. THOU SHALT SIGNAL WHO HAS THE SOLO.

Make eye contact with others. Give everyone a chance to play the lead unless they shake their head "No".

VI. THOU SHALT LISTEN TO OTHERS.

If you can't hear the lead, then YOU are playing too loudly.

VII. THOU SHALT WELCOME OTHERS.

Include everyone in the jam. Yes, even trumpets and tubas.

VIII. THOU SHALT NOT "SHOWBOAT"

Jamming is for making music TOGETHER, not showing off.

IX. THOU SHALT TRY NEW MATERIAL.

If you don't know the tune, listen to it a couple times before playing.

X. WHEN JAMMING IN A BUSINESS, THOU SHALT BUY SOMETHING!

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