

FAQ for Partner Band Program 2012 (subject to change)

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Let's Start with the Basics . . .

What is the process to be considered for a partner band?

The first step in being considered for one of the partner bands is to complete the Talent Poll located at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TalentPoll>

The talent poll is designed to help assist the band leaders in assessing your musical experience, performance history, rehearsal availability, and preferences. The call for talent (talent poll) will remain open for a minimum of 60 days.

Who are the band leaders, and why were they selected?

The band leaders for the Sage Summit 2012 Partner Band Program are as follows:

- Apryl Hanson, Blytheco, LLC
- Kevin Hollis, BAASS Business Solutions Inc.
- Colby Rampton, Rampton Consulting LLC

These band leaders oversaw the Sage Summit 2011 program and with one year under their belt have more awareness as to what's involved and can share the realities with their 2012 band members. The debut of Partner Band performances in 2011 was exciting but also filled with unknowns that we successfully navigated through. We have refined the program accordingly, which includes bringing back our 2011 band leaders with the goal of leveraging their experience to make the Partner Band experience and journey a more fulfilling one. To understand the role and responsibilities of Partner Band leaders, please refer to page 5 of this FAQ.

What criteria will band leaders use to choose talent for their bands?

There are many decision points the band leaders will use, including the instrument(s) you play, vocal abilities, experience, and—most importantly—availability while in Nashville for rehearsals, sound checks, and a special prize, which will be announced at a later date.

Our collective goal is to provide as many opportunities as possible to those that want to participate. That said, there are still only so many available positions for drummers, guitarists, vocalists, and so on. The band leaders together with Sage will collaborate to select band members that complete up to three full bands.

How will I know if I've been selected or not?

While we will try to accommodate as many performers as possible, there is a high likelihood that we will also need to turn some away. If you have been selected to play in a band, you will receive a formal invite from the band leader. If, however, more talent profiles are received than can be accommodated, some will receive an email from Sage confirming they were not selected for the Sage Summit 2012 band program.

Please remember that if you receive the latter notice, the reasons are simple due to the fact that we cannot fit more performers into the band(s). We hope that this will not dissuade you from entering into future talent polls, as our goal is to ensure that the participant mix is vastly different year to year.

How can I be assured that a fair process was followed in the selections?

While the band leaders are assessing and choosing the talent for each band based on talent polls received, the final selections must be vetted through Sage to ensure fairness was applied throughout.

It should also be noted that, similar to 2011, the band leaders and talent are completely random choices based on talent poll profiles submitted. To that end, when your band leader calls the first meeting of all band members, you should not be surprised that few (if any) members know one another and that your rehearsal in Nashville may be the first time you actually meet in person!

About the Performance . . .

When is the actual performance?

All performances will be held Monday, August 13, at the annual Partner Appreciation party. Dinner service begins at 7:30 p.m., and the first performance will go on stage at 8:15 p.m., with the final performance concluding at 10:50 p.m. Please note that we have purposely scheduled an 8:15 p.m. start to avoid distractions while partners eat dinner prior to the band's starting.

Where will we perform?

All performances will take place on the main stage in the Delta Ballroom at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee. Partners will be using the Sage keynote staging as their backdrop. While the stage design is still in development, the picture below provides a visual reference of the stage used at the Sage Summit 2011 conference.



Stage Design from Sage Summit 2011 provided as a visual reference only.

What will the stage consist of?

The Sage Summit stage manager has produced hundreds of concerts and supported Sage's staged events since 2003. The stage will include professional light and sound as well as backline equipment to bring your performances to life. If your band leader requests specific instruments or equipment for your performance, it will be available and on hand for your use.

Do I need to bring my own instruments?

Some performers prefer to bring their own instruments, while others may ask that we have it available for them—particularly larger items such as drum sets, keyboards, and so on. Quite simply, we look to each performer to confirm his or her individual preference. Sage will support respective needs but asks that requests be practical and reasonable and that instruments provided be shared among the various acts.

How long do we perform?

Each band will perform a 35- to 40-minute set. There will be a 10- to 15-minute break between bands to allow for reset, band prep, and introductions.

What if someone is a no-show or cancels at the last minute?

No problem! We have access to a full complement of talent in Nashville and will secure back-up as needed. In working with band members, the band leaders will know in the months leading up to the conference whether they can rely on the partners selected for their respective bands. If there are seeds of doubt, we will err on the side of caution and secure back-up to support the needs.

What restrictions are there in terms of song choices?

A key objective with this partner-band initiative is to bring partners together, create opportunities for memorable experiences, and provide a festive atmosphere that inspires impromptu dancing and singing among the broader partner community. A second objective is to provide band scalability so that we could be as inclusive with volunteers as possible and have choices that appeal to both novice and seasoned skill-sets.

At the end of the day, song selection will be left to the band leaders and their band members with the caveat that the songs they choose have strong audience appeal. Final song lists will be approved by Sage. As indicated earlier, the band leaders have experience at their disposal and will draw on that in making recommendations to elicit an exceptional experience for both the band and the overall audience.

Are there restrictions in terms of genre or specific music decades?

Each band has the freedom to mix and match songs from various decades and music genre. Selecting a song set that crosses over the various decades is perfectly acceptable.

What if bands select the same songs for their set list?

If two or more bands select the same songs, band leaders will collaborate and seek alternate choices, as needed. In general, however, the band that submits their song set first maintains priority in determining if they want to keep the song in their set or suggest an alternate selection.

Can we offer up other song options?

Yes; if the band collectively agrees to a different song, Sage will consider it. However, it must be first vetted through Sage and agreed upon before we permit the performance. The songs offered up as alternatives must fit the descriptions above.

Anything else we should know?

Yes! Sage is introducing a competitive component to the Sage Summit 2012 Partner Band Program—and the winners will be rewarded with an experience of a lifetime! While all participants will perform on stage for their peers and be treated like true rock heroes, we have a special prize that will be announced in association with the 2012 program that is all new, unique, and unforgettable. Don't miss out! Details will be unveiled in our first all-member band conference call to be hosted after the new year (January or February 2012).



Memories from our Sage Summit 2011 Partner Bands. Fill out the [Sage Summit Talent Poll](#) today and be a memory-maker in 2012!

Sage Summit ²⁰¹²

I'm going! Are you?

sage

Tactical Details . . .

When and where can we rehearse together?

Prior to the actual performance, you will have plenty of opportunities to rehearse. We have set aside space and time for this purpose. The rooms are available start as early as Saturday, August 11, Sunday, August 12, and Monday, August 13. Finding and agreeing to rehearsal time(s) will be a collective decision by each band based on its unique schedule demands.

We will have a “band manager” available to support your rehearsal activities while on site, provide guidance as needed, and serve as the liaison between each band and the stage production crew.

We will also make available practice kits for rehearsal purposes over this period. The “band manager” will make arrangements to provide whatever support you might need for and during your rehearsal and/or communicate additional needs. We will make every attempt to deliver on requests as are practical or feasible.

Will we have an opportunity for a stage rehearsal, too?

Yes, absolutely! Each band will have time on the stage for dress rehearsals and a full sound check with production crew. The stage rehearsals will begin on Sunday, August 12, afternoon. Sound checks will occur on Monday, August 13, in the midafternoon (time TBD). Our goal is to have completed all sound checks complete by 5 p.m. ET.

What role does the band leader play?

Being a band leader requires additional investment of time and also requires you to coordinate and orchestrate decision-making among your band members. The band leader will serve as the single point of contact to Sage for all preevent planning and on-site production crew.

What are specific responsibilities of the band leader?

The band leader’s responsibilities include, but are not limited, to:

- Select band members/vocalists from talent pool; strive to be as inclusive as possible.
- Work with band members to decide on your band name.
- Select desired song-set with band members.
- Establish method for preevent, remote rehearsals (virtual, YouTube, other).
- Work with Sage to manage details and band needs, participate in regular progress calls, and so on.
- Identify backline equipment if needs are outside of standard equipment provided.
- Determine talent gaps and work with Sage to coordinate fill-in using local talent.
- Establish on-site rehearsal and performance schedules; work with Sage to identify needs.

What if band leaders select the same musicians or vocalists?

There may be situations where a particular talent in the pool is requested by more than one band. We will not discourage or prohibit talent cross-over, particularly if the offering is unique (for example, vocals) and the performer is willing to support more than one band. The decision on cross-over talent will be left to the parties involved based on willingness, schedules, and availability.