

The Usual Suspects

- Intonation: is the band in tune?
- Tempo: is the tempo consistent throughout, or does the band rush certain sections, and slow down in others? Tempo fluctuations can lead to wrong notes, chords, a lack of singing in the congregation, among other things.
- Balance: is someone playing too loud? Is the overall sound of the ensemble clear and clean?
- Rhythm Section: Are the main instruments playing complimentary to each other, and reinforcing the overall rhythmic feel of the song?
- Musical Style (interpretation): Is the band playing in a style consistent with the original song, or the intended feel of the arrangement?
- Dynamic Contrast: Are there parts in the song that should be quieter or louder?
- Instrument Texture: are there parts of the song where certain sections of the band should/shouldn't play? Is there just "too much going on" in some sections?
- How about those sections that seem "empty"?
- Codas/D.C./D.S./Repeat Signs/Endings: Does everyone understand what these mean, and where they are within this piece of music? Do these signs make sense in the arrangement, or are they placed in awkward spots like page turns?
- Guitar Strumming: is one guitarist strumming a different rhythm than the other?
- Odd Chords/New Chords: is there a chord that the band hasn't played before? Are all band members playing the 7th, sus or other "special" chords?
- Building/Holds/A Cappella: Are there parts of the song that should build in intensity together? Should any chords just "ring"? Are there spots where the band should stop suddenly?
- Key Change/Modulation: Does the song change keys at any point?
- Time Signature: What is the time signature of the song? How does this affect the overall feel? Does it change at any point?
- Sound Quality: Is the overall volume level of the band appropriate? Is the P.A. broadcasting an accurate reproduction of the band's sound? Can everyone in the band hear themselves?