

## Mixing Notes for Blue Sage Quintet...

**We are easy to mix but here are a few suggestions to make it even easier:**

- Mike uses a wired in-ear monitor, so run him a separate XLR monitor send. He'll want to start with just his vocal and instrument mics in his monitor mix.
- For the floor monitors, start with a mix that is as close to the main mix as possible. Don't include the bass fiddle in the monitor mix as Shauna's bass amp acts as our monitor.
- The lead vocal mic (guitar/banjo player) should be "out front" in the mix. Mike doesn't eat the mic, so make sure this mic is hot. The backup vocals should be quite a bit lower in volume.
- The guitar/banjo mic should be fairly hot as well. The initial volume setting on this mic should be quite a bit higher than that of the vocal mics. Roll off the highs on the channel eq to mellow out the sound of the banjo.
- Heather's fiddle is very bright, so roll off the highs on her mic as well. Rob's fiddle eq can usually remain fairly flat - watch his volume as he tends to play very loud...
- The mandolin mic should be "hot" and "out front" in the mix. Make sure the mandolin doesn't sound to thin; it may need the highs rolled off a bit as well.
- The bass violin should be defined and not "boomy" (we want it to sound like an upright bass not a bass guitar!). With sub-woofers, engaging the low pass filter and/or rolling the bass off slightly can help clean up the bass violin sound. If your board is equipped with a parametrically shelved midrange eq, a slight boost in the low mids (the "Q" control set at approximately 11:00) can also help achieve a clean bass fiddle sound.
- Don't "chase" us on our solos. Once the levels are set, you can usually just leave the settings alone and we will move in and out of the mics to control the volume.
- Use minimal reverb. Reverb sounds great on the fiddle mics but just use a touch on the vocal and mandolin mics. If the reverb is noticeable when Mike is talking, then it's probably too much. Don't use reverb on the other instrument mics.

Thanks... Mike Iverson