

drum conversion kits for a reasonable price. Most drum head manufacturers offer bass drum heads which are mounted on tom hoops, for just such a conversion. I have an 18" floor tom converted into a bass drum, it sounds great and is perfect for casual gigs and/or small stages.

Another issue is your attitude - keeping a positive attitude is very important. If you get hired to do a gig, you want to get a call back. If you are always complaining about things like, "the stage is too small," "it's too loud," "it's not loud enough," "I don't have my own hotel room," "where are my meal tickets," "blah, blah, blah, waahhh," chances are you won't get a call back. Nobody wants to work with or be around someone who has a bad attitude and is complaining constantly. They bring everybody down; how can the band get on stage and entertain when they are in

that frame of mind? Believe me, the audience will pick up on it. If you have a positive attitude, people will gravitate towards you and want to work with you. This will also be reflected in the music and you will play better, which the audience will pick up on as well. They know if you're in a good mood and are having fun.

The last thing I would like talk about is **BEING ON TIME!!!** To me, this is one of the most important things you can do. I like to get to the gig early, that way I have plenty of time to set up, warm up, and change my clothes before down-beat. Because I live in Southern California, traffic is always an issue, so I allow plenty of travel time. Take into consideration things like parking and how convenient it is to load into the venue. Will you have to take your gear up or down a flight of stairs? Getting your gear into some gigs is hard enough - you don't want to be loading in while

there are a lot of people around. Whether it's a casual gig or a wedding, you don't want to be loading-in during the festivities.

Whether you make a living playing or you play on the weekends for fun or to make a few extra bucks, you need to be professional. Playing the drums is a great thing, after all, they are drums and you do get to hit them with sticks! Being professional and having a good attitude might mean the difference between working or not. I tell my students who are trying to break into the business to behave like they would at any job interview or job. The way I see it, the more professional you are, the more you can be fifteen years old at heart.

For more information on Bart Robley, please visit www.bartrobley.com or www.sammorrisonband.com.