

Mike Rayburn AV & Staging Requirements

Mike Rayburn's goal is to deliver the absolute best presentation possible and be the least of your worries! He is easy-to-work-with and will be as flexible as possible in working out details on site. What follows are the general, sound, lighting and staging requirements necessary to make Rayburn's presentation and your event amazing.

General...

- **Rayburn does not ever perform during meals, while people are eating, socializing or otherwise distracted.**
- As you prepare for Mike's performance it might be helpful to view a previous performance. [Click here to view a full-length version of Mike's performance here.](#)
 - *Please note: Mike tailors every performance and his material may vary. This recording is intended only to aid in your general planning process.*
- Video-taping of Rayburn's performance can be done for internal and archival use. **We require hi-res digital copy of the video-taping.**
- After reading everything below, if you have questions, please call Mike's team toll free at 1-877-307-7403.

Sound...

1. System: Please provide one professional-quality sound system with EXTERNAL speakers, (*in-house ceiling speakers are not acceptable without approval from Rayburn*) which will adequately cover the performance area and project well to the number of people at your event, keeping in mind that Rayburn's presentation includes his live guitar and vocals as well as speaking. We assume each channel will have level and EQ controls.

2. Vocal Microphone: Please provide one Countryman E6 or similar with one-ear headset (not two-ear). Rayburn will also bring a Countryman E6 with standard Shure connector (which fits most wireless transmitters) as a backup. Please provide professional wireless system with Shure or comparable connector if opting to use Rayburn's E6.

4. Guitar: Please provide one (1) direct Box and two (2) AC power outlets down center stage. Rayburn will bring a small guitar effects pedal board with a 1/4" output.

5. Foot Microphone: Please provide one Shure SM58 microphone or comparable (wired or wireless) placed down, center stage (no mic stand necessary), and some gaffers (or duct) tape. (SM57 won't work because of the loose mic head). Rayburn will tape a towel thickly around this mic and tap on it with his foot to put a beat underneath his guitar playing. *Usually for EQ on this channel we cut out all the highs and mids and leave the low end flat. The goal is to create a heartbeat "thud" sound rather than a kick drum.*

Channels/inputs...

Rayburn will use a total of 3 inputs as follows:

- one for his vocal wireless
- one for his guitar
- one for the above requested SM58

Lighting...

Mike plays in a number of different settings with varying possibilities for lighting, so we will give you a general description of what he needs. The stage must be lit better and differently than the rest of the room.

- If theater lighting is possible Rayburn needs a nice general wash in the middle 1/3 of the stage.
- In theater/larger production settings, along with a general wash, any changing or moving lights must be subtle, not distracting from the comedic presentation.
- Front lighting is crucial as Rayburn's performance is comedic and expressive, thus his facial expressions must be very visible.
- In ballrooms or similar, where lighting possibilities are limited, the key is to light the stage area well to help define the situation that this is a show and performance.
- If possible the audience should be about 75-90% dark.
- Be sure to light Rayburn from both sides so as not to cast shadows on one side.

- In ballroom settings, a minimum of four cans (two on each side) trained on Rayburn is required.

Staging...

As stated above, Rayburn plays in many different situations ranging from fine theaters to hotel ballrooms, meeting rooms, make-shift stages, multi-purpose rooms and schools. We will address all situations in terms of Mike's minimum requirements but as always, the better the staging the better the program.

- Please provide at least an 8'X 12' or larger stage or riser appropriate for the room, audience, and situation.
- If the stage is made of portable sections please make sure it does not squeak or move when walked on, especially at down, center stage.
- **PLEASE HAVE THE AUDIENCE AS CLOSE TO THE STAGE AS POSSIBLE.** Closer proximity facilitates better connection between performer and audience and thus, a better show.
- Have this program in the smallest room that will comfortably accommodate the number of attendees you expect. The less empty space in the room the better the energy and connection and again, the better the show will be.

Please call Mike's team with any questions. Thanks so much!

Toll Free 1-877-307-7403.

Checklist from above...Rayburn needs:

_____ One professional quality sound system with EXTERNAL SPEAKERS

_____ One Countryman E6 one-ear headset wireless microphone AND two 9V batteries.

_____ One direct box for guitar 1/4" input, placed down, center stage

_____ AC power outlet near down, center stage

_____ One SM58 microphone placed down, center stage

_____ One roll gaffers (or duct) tape

_____ 8' x 12' or larger stage or riser

_____ **PLEASE HAVE THE AUDIENCE AS CLOSE TO THE STAGE AS POSSIBLE.**