

## Mud Manifesto

These are not rules. But instead, these are things that we owe to each other as fellow musicians and band mates.

- We generally desire that only instruments suited to contra dance music, as played by Mud, be used. Mud usually performs traditional American, Irish and Scottish tunes augmented by schottisches, hambos, polkas, etc. This genre of music is usually performed by traditional string, whistle and percussion instruments. Brass, modern woodwinds, drums or electronically amplified instruments are not typically used. If you play a non-traditional instrument, please be careful to modulate your volume and blend in with the band. Try it out at rehearsal if you're not sure.
- Mud is welcome to all levels of performers. Beginning performers should have a basic ability to play their instrument prior to performing but are welcome to join us at rehearsal. We share, regardless of level of musicianship, the need to learn from each other.
- Rehearsal is a necessity for all levels of musicians. Rehearsal is where we learn together how to perform this great music as a complementary group. We all have a responsibility to attend and host rehearsal as often as we can, work and personal life permitting.
- Our audiences deserve professional, high quality music. This means that the band members all share these additional responsibilities when we perform :
  - Arriving early enough to set up and begin to play when the gig begins.
  - Having the ability to perform satisfactorily each tune being played. If you don't come to rehearsal, please make sure you are prepared to play all the songs including the new ones.
  - Listening for switches, "outs", etc. and passing them along to our band mates.
  - Listening and staying with the main rhythm – that's the piano and usually the bass – and listening for changes in tempo.
  - Listening to each other and always striving to find ways to complement each other's instruments.
  - Being respectful of the caller by not creating too much "background noise" while the next dance is being taught.
- Mud's special democratic, open structure can only survive with the active participation of all its members. This requires that we all assist in its administrative functions. These include:
  - Set up and take down, cleaning up
  - Hosting rehearsal
  - Preparing/serving refreshments
  - Sound system setup, operation, storage
  - Booking
  - Preparing copies of music
  - Preparing tune lists
  - Preparing schedules
  - Arranging rehearsals
  - Arranging Saturday gig responsibilities
- No one member should have to carry an undue burden of these functions or consider the job a "life sentence". We will try to give jobs limited terms and not rely on the volunteer for their own "succession planning".