

## MUSICIAN CODE OF CONDUCT by Charlie Bertini

Be on time.

Have all the right equipment. Horns, mutes, pencil, valve oil, iPad, stands, mic, cable, tuner.

Play in tune. You may not get hired next time if this is a challenging area for you.

Be prepared. Look over music, rehearse if needed. Listen to charts, artists, styles. And bring your own nutrition. Don't expect to be fed, even if they say you will.

Dress appropriately. Clean shirt, slacks, jacket, tie, dress shoes.

Don't talk about others. Musicians, contractor, MD, arrangers, etc. And don't bitch about the gig or conditions. Do your best and next time, don't take it.

Be on time after break periods. Don't wait to use rest room. Do that first! Be sober. No alcohol, weed, edibles. Do that stuff after the gig.

Leave your ego at the door. You are a vehicle for the music and the arrangements. Don't add your version to it.

Leave a good impression on others. Fellow musicians, MD, contractor. Your reputation will always follow you everywhere. What will they say about you?

Don't suck up to the MD, contractor, producer. In the future, they will either call you or they won't.

Keep good business records. As soon as someone pays you to play your instrument, you are a businessman or businesswoman.

When appropriate, send a thank you note (preferred) or email or text to contractor, band leader, person who recommended you, all the above. Show your gratitude.

Stay out of the control room on a session unless the producer or engineer invites you in. And don't produce from your chair in the session. No one needs to know where "we should start" unless they ask you.

Leave a good impression on others. Referrals are a major part of our business. What will they say about you when someone asks if they can recommend a good trumpeter?

Be able to play other styles, even if that is out of your comfort zone. Don't pigeon-hole yourself. When you work on your weak stuff, the strong stuff gets better, too.

Be sure to have fun. We started playing an instrument because it was fun. Don't lose sight of that in all the other confusion.