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Call For Bands – Going Beyond Myspace

By Madison Lockwood

You're loaded up on MySpace - tons of friends and fans with pictures from your most recent shows, flyers for your next tour, and comments from the peanut gallery on everything from the outfit you wore last week to the person you just broke up with. But as much as this is working, it's limiting. Hugely limiting.

With your own website, your band goes to the next level. First, there's the credibility. MySpace is for basement bands, kids who practice after school when their drummer isn't grounded. When you have your own website, you can actually be a basement band with a drummer under perpetual house arrest, but to the rest of the world, you are a professional group of serious musicians, each member with an email address that includes your band's name.

Include a link to your website in every email you send out, list it at the bottom of flyers, put it on business cards and attach it to the demo CD you send out to record companies. Reviewers can get information about you from your site and, in turn, you can post comments they print. Give bios of the band members and ways to contact you. List lyrics to your songs and tour schedules. The more you have on your website, the more street cred you get - and anything is better than a little spot on MySpace.

Next, there's the possibilities. What can't you have when you've got your own website? You can sell your new album, t shirts in a variety of styles, hats, posters, patches, pins. You can upload samples of your songs, making a pseudo-demo tape available for fans, club owners, recording executives, and potential agents to listen to. Have a variety of forums for your fans to meet each other, get rides to shows, ask you questions, discuss your music - all conveniently separated into categories that would be impossible in the endless list of comments on MySpace.

You can also communicate with your band members through your website. Use secure pages that the public won't have access to and pass notes back and forth when one is out of town. Upload clips of that bass line you're working on or lyrics that you're having trouble with. Even if you all have 'real' jobs or go to school full time, you can still have band practice via the website.

Websites are a great way to develop your cult status as well. Upload live tracks from your shows and start a bootleg craze, new millennium style. Offer limited edition, hand screened t-shirts and patches. Create a blog and pick a fan out of every show to memorialize. Make up rumors about yourself and spread them. Start an online war with another band. Get noticed and get people listening to your music, talking about your band, and coming to your shows. Then start your own label and help them make their website as big of a success as yours is.

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The Myspace Craze - Info For Parents

By Gabriel Adams

Everyone has a Myspace account these days. You can find almost anything on myspace, from love, games, books, movies, music, and even friends. One of the most intriguing things about myspace to me is the web templates that the web site provides to its users. These templates can be modified in many different ways to produce millions of different myspace web pages. Also biographical information along with quotes and other miscellaneous information are easily entered into this template. It seems to me that many of the users on myspace are just trying to keep in touch with old friends, but some users are looking for a "good time". Also it seems that some users are just on myspace to try to get as many "friends" to add them to their lists as they can. The only thing that worries me about myspace is the amount of younger children that have pages on the site.

I have seen many different news shows lately about sexual predators that try to lure young children into a meeting with them for sex. I am afraid that myspace makes this much easier for these sexual predators to find children, because it basically gives them a direct link to them. I guess as with all things, parents need to keep an eye on their children, and make sure that they are not getting themselves into anything that they should not be getting into.

My wife and I recently had a son, so now I am really taking an interest into anything that I think can harm him. I think that the information that is provided on myspace can really do some harm if it falls into the wrong hands. I do not think that I will ever allow my son to be online in a room by himself without myself or my wife with him, because I am afraid that a sexual predator might lure him into a meeting. Just remember that myspace is like many other things in life - most people use its power for

good, but a few use it for evil. So just be sure that you supervise your kids and keep them safe.

For good, safe fun, check out our Myspace Games Codes at

<http://redpython.com/>



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