

The show must go on![even with broken strings]

My Band was performing in Bowen in North Queensland, from memory I think it was the Kings Beach Hotel, we playing in 'high voltage' a successful and fun tribute to AC/DC.

The band would usually play straight thru a 75 minute set, no breaks, no stops

We were up to about our 7th song in the set list when I noticed our rhythm guitarist had broken a string. No real worries there I could cover him no problem. About 60 seconds later I myself break a string. No problem, me thinks I will get my spare Gibson SG, be playing again in 45 secs.....look around ..no SG...old mate rhythm player has grabbed it for himself ..too lazy to change a string on his guitar!!! Ok.. so I think I will very quickly change my own string with the help of our stage roadie... another 20 seconds goes by.. old mate breaks another string on MY spare guitar...ok boys ya gotta fill in.. drum and bass extension solos, singer doing a bit of "improve" over the top.. no problem.....UNTIL.. bass player blows his A string....as many of you would know most AC/DC songs are in A.. ok he switches to the E string 5th fret...not as nice a sound but is cool.....we are going to be okay....oh dear.. drummer has broken his snare skin!!!!.. cant be happening!! Just cant be!! Apollo 13 didn't have this much coincidental bad luck!!!!...by now my string is replaced so now we have a 3 string bass, one guitar, a singer looking remotely pissed off and looking for a rock to hide under, and a drummer gesticulating widely for help with his snare....but the show goes on.. old mate rhythm player is back on deck and the bass player is going to play 3 strings for at least the next 2 songs until, the roadie goes to truck and get the spare bass[not often bass players break strings!!

Finally the snare skin is replaced all guitars are back working.. we start up exactly in the spot where we first lost a string and continue as if nothing happened...never a break in the song...just a pile of improve in the middle section the show goes on!!! The song by the way was "hell ain't a bad place to be"

Now I can see everyone with stage experience saying "well they should have changed their string before the gig!" truth was we changed our strings every night, bass strings every 6 gigs!!! We all bought our strings from one supplier, and, yep a faulty batch!!

The moral:

always have spare strings closely accessible, a spare guitar where possible, drummer at least a spare snare skin or maybe a spare snare drum and also spare kick drum skin and a singer who can remain non plussed when all hell breaks loose around him!!

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