

Debrief and Recommendations for The Mirandas (Festival F Performance)

Disclaimer: This document is based on my immediate impressions recorded right after your performance – essentially a raw "brain dump" of ideas. I've organised these candid notes for clarity, but have not watered down the feedback. It is given in the spirit of *radical candor* – that is, honest and direct critique delivered with genuine care and respect for the band. Remember the saying, "*a true friend is the one who tells you the truth as they see it.*" All feedback is well-intentioned to help the band reach its full potential. Please take these ideas as one perspective meant to encourage reflection and improvement.

Introduction and Context

First of all, congratulations on **The Mirandas'** appearance at Festival F in Faro. Performing on such a big stage with a sizable audience is a great achievement, and it's clear that the band has **tremendous potential**. Songs like "**Queens with No Crown**" (and others) showcase your strong songwriting and talent. The show had many positive aspects – the sound quality was excellent, the audience was engaged, and the overall experience was memorable.

That said, there are always areas to refine. The notes below highlight key observations and suggestions from the show. Some of these points may be uncomfortable or **controversial**, but they are shared with the aim of helping The Mirandas grow. Use this debrief to reflect on what might be improved, keeping in mind that every band goes through this learning process.

Treating the Show as a Cohesive Experience

Observation: The performance at Festival F felt like a series of individual songs rather than one cohesive experience. There were noticeable gaps and pauses between songs, and the momentum sometimes dipped.

Recommendation: Start viewing each concert or set as **one continuous journey** for the audience. Plan the setlist and transitions so that the show flows smoothly from start to finish. This might include:

- **Seamless Transitions:** Minimise dead air between songs. Have a plan for what happens as one song ends and the next begins – this could be a short instrumental segue, a drum fill, or the singer engaging the crowd with a story.
- **Intro/Outro Music:** Consider a brief intro track or ambient sound as you take the stage, and an outro to close the set, to bookend the performance with intention.
- **Planned Banter:** While spontaneity is great, it helps to **prepare some remarks** or stories to share during tuning breaks or instrument changes. For example, introducing the next song with a short anecdote (more on this below) can keep the audience engaged while you get ready.

By treating the entire set as a single experience, you make the performance more engaging and memorable. Rather than a "stop-start" feeling, the audience will be carried along from one moment to the next.

Capturing and Leveraging Live Performances

Observation: It wasn't clear if the show was recorded (audio or video). For a band in an up-and-coming stage, **not capturing a major performance** like Festival F is a missed opportunity.

Recommendation: Record every significant show – and even smaller gigs when possible. Today's technology makes this easier than ever, and the content you capture can be invaluable for promotion and growth:

- **Live Audio Recordings:** If possible, get a feed from the soundboard to record high-quality audio of your set. This could even be released as a *"Live at Festival F"* album or EP. Live recordings showcase your raw energy and can attract listeners who want to experience the concert vibe.
- **Multi-angle Video:** Set up a few cameras or even good smartphones to film the performance from different angles (front of house, side stage, etc.). You don't need an expensive production – even informal footage is better than none. Later, you can edit these into performance clips.
- **Social Media Clips:** From the video footage, create short clips for TikTok, Instagram Reels, YouTube Shorts, etc. Highlight exciting moments: a powerful chorus, a guitar solo, a crowd reaction, or a heartfelt introduction to a song. These snippets help **feed your online audience** and keep fans engaged between shows.
- **Behind-the-Scenes Content:** Don't forget to capture off-stage moments. Record a bit of the soundcheck, backstage warm-ups, or the band walking on stage. These behind-the-scenes glimpses can be compiled into a tour vlog or Patron-exclusive content (if you have a Patreon, or perhaps consider starting one).
- **Livestream When Possible:** If the venue and connection allow, consider livestreaming your set (even if just a song or two) on Instagram Live or Facebook Live. This lets fans who couldn't attend feel included, and it signals that your shows are events not to miss.

The goal is to **maximise every show**. A single gig can yield a live album, dozens of social media posts, and promotional material to help book future gigs. Especially at this stage, every bit of exposure helps in growing your fanbase.

Playing Live Frequently to Hone Your Craft

Observation: The band's performance, while strong musically, showed signs that could indicate you **don't play live very often**. Certain moments of uncertainty on stage and handling of minor mishaps suggested that more live experience would help smooth out the rough edges.

Recommendation: Perform as often as you possibly can. There is no substitute for stage time in developing tightness as a band and confidence as performers. Many legendary bands built their following (and their skills) by playing **constantly** – from tiny bars to big venues, sometimes gigging multiple times a week. Here's why playing live frequently is so crucial:

- **Experience and Confidence:** The more shows you play, the more comfortable you become. You learn how to handle technical issues or mistakes on the fly without the audience even noticing. Things that once might throw you off will become second nature to fix or even turn into spontaneous fun moments.
- **Tightness:** Regular gigs force you to refine your timing, transitions, and dynamics. Songs evolve as you discover what works best live. You'll also develop better communication on stage (cues, eye contact, etc.).

- **Adaptability:** Playing different venues – from small acoustic sessions to full electric sets – teaches you to adapt your performance to any environment. For instance, if only the core members (singer and guitarist) can play a small acoustic show, it still benefits the full band's profile and gives you a chance to reinterpret your songs in new ways.
- **Building a Fanbase One Show at a Time:** Frequent shows, even to small audiences, gradually create fans. In a region like the Algarve, every gig – no matter how intimate – might win over a few new listeners. Ten small shows where you gain a handful of fans can be more valuable than one big show where the crowd sees you once and forgets. Over time, these local fans will start attending your bigger shows and bringing friends, snowballing your following.
- **Visibility and Opportunities:** The more you play, the more promoters and venue owners will hear about you. A reputation for being active and delivering a solid live show can lead to more bookings. It also keeps you in practice so that when major opportunities (like festival slots) come up, you're ready to shine.

In practical terms, seek out every opportunity to perform: - Look for local bars, cafes, or events that welcome live music.


- Consider **open mics or jam nights** for acoustic sets.
- Even informal gatherings or livestream "living room concerts" for fans online can count as live practice.
- If possible, organise a mini-tour around your region or even small weekend tours to nearby cities.

Treat each performance as a stepping stone to the next. The key is consistency and dedication – playing live often is one of the best investments you can make in the band's future.

Engaging and Growing Your Fan Community

Observation: At the festival show, it was noticeable that while some fans in the audience were familiar with your music, many were new or casual listeners. There were missed opportunities in how you interacted with the crowd to **turn casual viewers into loyal fans**.

Recommendation: Proactively engaging with your audience and making them feel part of a community will grow your fanbase and keep people coming back. Some suggestions:

- **Acknowledge and Appreciate Your Fans:** Always express genuine gratitude to everyone who showed up.  **focus on the positive** – "We're so happy to see all of you here with us tonight!" Make the people who are there feel valued.
- **Share Your Story:** Briefly introduce the band for those who don't know you. e.g., "We're The Mirandas, born and raised in the Algarve music scene...". Personalise your presence so newcomers feel like they know who you are.
- **Promote Connection Points:** Don't be shy about plugging your socials, music, and merch during the show (at least once, mid-set or before the last song):
 - "Follow us on Instagram/Facebook for updates – we love to connect with you."
 - "Our music is on Spotify, Apple Music, etc., so look us up if you like what you hear – the song we just played is called XYZ and it's available online."
 - If you have merchandise (CDs, T-shirts, etc.) or an email list, mention it: "We have some merch at the back – come say hi after the set, we'd love to meet you!"
 - If you decide to set up a Patreon or fan club, a live show is a great place to announce it: "For those who want to support us more, we have a Patreon where we share behind-the-scenes content."
- **Encourage Social Sharing:** Instead of being bothered by phones in the air, encourage it! Say something like, "Feel free to take videos or pictures, and if you post them, tag us @TheMirandas."

We'll definitely check them out and share our favorites." This not only makes fans feel included, but it also results in free promotion for you on social media.

- **Fan Interaction:** Little gestures can create big loyalty:
- If time permits, do a quick selfie with the crowd from the stage ("let's get everyone in the shot!") – that's a fun moment people remember and share.
- During or after the show, give a shout-out to any fan groups or individuals if you recognize them ("I see some familiar faces – thank you for coming back!").
- Consider dedicating a song to the audience or a specific fan occasion (birthday, etc.) if appropriate – it shows you care about your listeners.
- **Post-Show Engagement:** After your set (if the context allows), go to the merch table or the front of the stage and spend a few minutes with fans – thank them, sign something, take photos. These personal touches turn casual listeners into true fans.

By actively fostering a sense of community, you make attending a Mirandas show more than just hearing live music – it becomes an experience where people feel connected to the band and each other. Over time, this can create a loyal following that will support you enthusiastically and spread the word about your music.

Storytelling and Song Introductions

Observation: Many in the audience likely hadn't heard your original songs before. When a band is at an early stage, listeners don't have the personal connection to the songs that longtime fans would. At the Festival F show, there were moments where an introduction or story could have elevated a song's impact, but the opportunity wasn't fully utilized. (For example, one song written about a father figure wasn't introduced with its backstory, even though the subject was present in the audience; *"Queens with No Crown"* has a powerful theme that wasn't explained to those who might not know it.)

Recommendation: Introduce your songs with brief stories or context to draw the audience in. This doesn't mean giving a speech before every track, but a sentence or two can profoundly increase how much listeners care about what they're about to hear:

- **Explain the Song's Meaning:** If a song has a special story or inspiration, share it. *"This next song is very personal to me – I wrote it for my father, who's actually here tonight."* or *"Here's a song about unsung heroes – the 'queens with no crown' in our lives."* This sets the scene and gives the audience something (or someone) to think about as the song plays.
- **Dedicate Songs When Appropriate:** Dedicating a song to someone or a group can make the moment memorable. *"We want to dedicate this to anyone who's ever felt underappreciated..."* or *"This one goes out to [Name], without whom this song wouldn't exist."* People will pay closer attention because they sense the authenticity.
- **Share Personal Moments:** Even a lighthearted anecdote works: *"I actually got a tattoo of the title of this song on my arm – that's how much it means to me."* Little personal touches make the audience feel like they're getting to know you.
- **Keep it Concise and Genuine:** A short, heartfelt intro is enough. Avoid rambling, but do speak from the heart. Over time, you can refine these stories for maximum impact (even repeating your best song intro stories at multiple shows – remember, it's new to each audience).
- **Use Visuals (if available):** If you have a screen or backdrop, consider displaying the song title or a line of lyric while you introduce or perform it. This helps people catch the name and remember the song later, and reinforces the story you told.

The effect of storytelling is powerful – it transforms a performance into a shared emotional experience. As noted earlier, we saw another artist at Festival F do this masterfully (sharing a personal story behind

a song which instantly captivated everyone). When people understand what a song means to you, they listen more intently and are more likely to form a connection with it. Over time, these stories become a memorable part of your live show's identity.

Stage Presentation and Visual Impact

Observation: As a relatively new band on a big stage, some visual aspects of the show could be more polished. For instance, the band members' attire and stage positioning seemed a bit haphazard or mismatched, and the large backdrop screen was used simply for the band logo without much variation or connection to each song.

Recommendation: Pay attention to the visual elements of your performance, as they contribute greatly to an audience's first impression. A few areas to consider:

- **Band Attire Coordination:** While each member can have their individual style, some coordination or theme in clothing can signal that you are a cohesive unit. This doesn't mean matching uniforms, but perhaps a colour palette or a certain aesthetic that everyone contributes to. It helps the band look "put together" on stage. (For example, if one member is in casual shorts and another in a leather jacket, it sends mixed signals; think about what image fits your music and try to have everyone align to that vibe.)
- **Stage Layout:** Make sure important and energetic performers are visible. At the festival, the drummer was pushed to the side, and the keyboardist was centre stage but not very animated. It might make sense to rearrange positions: consider moving the drum kit to the center or bringing it forward if space allows, especially since your drummer has great energy (more on individual members below). If the keyboard player is more static, perhaps position him to the side or elevate him so he's not drawing focus when not actively engaging the crowd.
- **Use of Backdrop/Screen:** If you have access to a screen or banner, make it work for you beyond just a logo. For future big shows, you could prepare simple visuals for each song – even something as basic as the **song title** or a thematic image or lyric line displayed when you play it. This not only looks more professional, but it also helps the audience remember your songs. (E.g., during "Queens with No Crown," display the title and maybe a silhouette of a crown or empowering imagery; for a song about your father, maybe a nostalgic photo or just the title in a meaningful font.)
- **Lighting and Effects:** Coordinate with the lighting tech (if available) on key moments – like having the lights focus on the singer during a quiet intro or flashing during a big crescendo. These touches amplify the emotional impact of your music. If you don't have dedicated lighting control, even verbal cues to the stage crew or simple things like all members knowing to rock out at a certain beat drop can create a visual cue for lighting operators to respond to.
- **Choreography and Movement:** This doesn't mean dance routines (unless you want to), but plan some movement on stage. For example, during instrumental sections, the singer can interact with the guitarist or move around the stage to engage different sides of the audience. If you have backing vocalists, maybe they can step forward during a chorus where their part is strong, or the two can sway/move in sync to add visual appeal. Think about the whole stage as your canvas – use it fully rather than everyone staying rooted in one spot.

Visual presentation is a huge part of live performance. Small tweaks in how you dress, stand, and utilize the stage can make a local band look like a seasoned act. It subconsciously tells the audience that you take your performance seriously and helps your music stand out in their memory.

Energy, Emotion, and Professionalism On Stage

Observation: The emotional tone of the show sometimes wavered. There were moments of **incredible energy**, but also moments where band members' reactions might have unintentionally signalled disappointment or nervousness (e.g., apologising for a less-than-full crowd or technical issues). This can affect how the audience feels during the show.

Recommendation: As performers, always remember that **you set the tone** for the audience. Your energy and attitude are contagious. Here's how to keep the emotional energy high and professional:

- **Give 100% Regardless of the Crowd:** Whether you're playing to 10 people or 1,000 people, treat it with the same enthusiasm and importance. Every audience deserves your best show, and often a smaller crowd will respond with huge appreciation if they see you putting in full energy for them. **Never allude to disappointment** about turnout – the people who are there are the ones that matter.
- **Never Highlight the Negative:** If something goes wrong (a missed note, an amp issue, starting late due to technical delays, etc.), do not apologise excessively or draw attention to it. Most times, the audience hasn't even noticed a small mistake until a performer's face or words give it away. Keep pushing forward confidently. For example:
 - Instead of saying "Sorry about that, we messed up the intro," just roll with it or make a lighthearted, *upbeat* comment if needed and continue.
 - If the show starts late, avoid dwelling on it or blaming circumstances. Jump in with excitement: *"Thank you for your patience – we've been dying to play for you, so let's rock!"* (positive framing).
 - If the crowd is sparse, *do not mention it at all*. Act as if this is the place to be. Often, people spread out can still make a big noise; encourage them: *"I want to hear you singing along on this one,"* even if there aren't many – you might be surprised how loud 30 people can be when engaged.
- **Control the Atmosphere:** You, as performers, are in control of the room's mood. If you act confident and joyous, the crowd will feel it. If you seem flustered or upset, the crowd will also sense that and it can dampen their enjoyment. So even if something frustrates you, channel that energy into the performance or save the venting for after the show.
- **Positive Language:** Little choices of words on stage matter. Instead of "It's late, thanks for sticking around," say "We're so excited to play for you tonight." Replace "I'm nervous" with "I'm excited". Speak as if this is exactly where you want to be (because it is!) and the crowd will mirror that sentiment.
- **Keep the Show Rolling:** If, for instance, a guitar string breaks or a technical hitch occurs, have a contingency plan. Maybe the singer and drummer jam for a moment, or the bassist and drummer lay down a groove while it gets fixed, or one of the backing vocalists tells a quick fun anecdote. The key is to avoid long awkward silences that break the immersion.
- **End on a High Note:** However the show went, finish strong and thank the crowd sincerely. Leave them feeling like they were part of something special, and they'll be more likely to come again and bring friends.

Remember, most people attend a concert to have a good time and feel good. If you exude confidence, passion, and positivity, they will walk away feeling that – and they'll associate those good feelings with your band.

Individual Performance Feedback (Radical Candor)

The following section gives specific feedback for each member's on-stage performance and role. These comments are offered with respect and the understanding that everyone in the band is working hard and has

their own style. The intent is to point out both strengths and areas for improvement, from one observer's perspective. Of course, please take or leave any of these suggestions as you see fit.

Lead Vocalist / Frontwoman (Singer)

Strengths: You have a compelling voice and a strong stage presence when you fully engage. Your ability to play multiple instruments (guitar, piano) is impressive and adds versatility to the band's sound. When you did step away from the guitar (e.g. playing the piano or just singing), it created some dynamic and visually engaging moments.

Suggestions for Improvement:

- **Focus on Fronting the Band:** Consider performing most songs without the guitar. Use the guitar for select numbers where it truly adds something essential. Often, a dedicated lead guitarist is already handling the guitar parts, so you might be doubling work that isn't needed. By freeing yourself from the guitar, you can move around the stage more, interact with both the audience and your bandmates, and pour all your energy into delivering the vocals and emotion of the song.
- **Study Great Frontpersons:** It might help to observe and get inspiration from iconic lead singers known for commanding the stage. (For instance, the fictional band series *Daisy Jones & The Six* offers a portrayal of a charismatic 1970s frontwoman, and legends like Freddie Mercury exemplified how to own a stage.) This isn't to say copy someone else's moves, but notice how they connect with the crowd, use their bodies and facial expressions, and make even large venues feel intimate.
- **Confidence and Charisma:** Embrace the role of being the **face of the band**. This might mean amplifying your on-stage persona – maybe a bit more theatrical or bold than you'd be off stage. It can feel awkward at first, but remember that on a big stage, slightly exaggerated movements and expressions come across well. Don't be afraid to rock out, dance a little, make eye contact with audience members, and really *perform* the songs. You have the talent; it's about presentation now.
- **Avoid Hiding Behind Instruments:** There were moments it seemed the guitar was like a safety blanket. If you find it challenging at first to perform without it, maybe gradually reduce how many songs you play guitar on. Try one set where you only play guitar on, say, 2 songs and just sing (or use the mic stand as your prop) for the others. See how that feels. Often, singers discover a new freedom when they let go of the instrument and just focus on singing and engaging.
- **Use the Piano Strategically:** The piano brings a nice change of texture on certain songs – continue to use that when it fits, as it also gives a great visual (you at the keys). Just ensure that when you're at the piano, you still connect with the audience (a quick glance up, or a line sung looking at them) so you don't lose the frontwoman connection in those moments.

Goal: Evolve into a truly magnetic frontwoman who can command attention with or without an instrument. By doing so, you'll elevate the band's live impact significantly.

Lead Guitarist

Strengths: Your energy on stage is fantastic. You moved around, interacted with the music physically, and showed a lot of passion in your playing. Musically, your guitar work is solid and adds excitement to the songs. The fact that you were animated and into the performance really helped bring songs to life visually.

Suggestions for Improvement:

- **Stage Presence as a Team Sport:** You've set a good example by being lively – encourage your bandmates to engage with you during the show. For instance, stepping forward during solos (and the singer or bassist can come rock out near you), or doing a fun back-to-back guitar moment, can be great crowd-pleasers. Don't hold back; your willingness to move is a strength that can become contagious across the whole band.
- **Sound Mix and Solos:** Ensure that your levels are balanced in the live mix. There were moments where the guitar felt a bit low in volume during the show. Work with the sound engineer beforehand to get your solos to cut through – these are moments that hype up the crowd, so they need to be heard. Also, if you have pedals or effects, consider those moments to add drama (e.g., a boost for solos).
- **Interaction with Singer:** If the singer takes the advice to roam the stage more, be ready to interact – a classic rock move is the guitarist and singer sharing a mic for a line, or just jamming face-to-face at centre stage for a moment. These things might feel cheesy offstage but come across as exciting onstage.
- **Continue the Enthusiasm:** Basically, keep doing what you're doing in terms of energy – it was spot on. If anything, you can lean into it even more, because an engaged lead guitarist is often the visual spark of a live band.

Goal: Remain the energetic spark on stage, and help lead the rest of the band into a more animated, connected performance. Your enthusiasm is an asset – it draws the audience's eyes and can elevate the whole band's vibe.

Drummer

Strengths: You have a **fantastic energy and vibe** behind the kit. It was clear you were enjoying yourself, and that enthusiasm is infectious. Musically, the drumming was tight and powerful – a great backbone for The Mirandas' sound. Also, you have a visually striking presence (for example, your style and look make you stand out in a good way, reminiscent of drummers from bands like Royal Blood who have big personalities).

Suggestions for Improvement:

- **Visibility:** If possible, try to be more visible on stage. This might be more about band staging (as mentioned earlier) than your personal actions, but anything you can do to be seen helps. You might consider using a riser for the drum kit if the venue allows, so even from the back or side, the crowd can see your great performance.
- **Interaction:** Within the limits of playing drums, continue to interact with the band – making eye contact, smiling or nodding at key moments, etc. The audience notices those little cues of camaraderie on stage. If there's a breakdown section where you carry the rhythm, don't be afraid to egg on the crowd with a shout or raise of a drumstick.
- **Showmanship:** Some drummers develop small showmanship moves (spinning a drumstick, a big cymbal crash flourish, etc.). Use these sparingly but effectively – they can draw cheers. It seems you already have a natural flair; just be mindful to keep it tight musically as you do so (which you have been).
- **Drum Solo Spotlight:** If the arrangement allows, maybe have a short drum solo or spotlight moment (even a bar or two of drums alone can hype a crowd if set up well). This gives you a chance to shine individually and underscores how important you are to the band's sound.

Goal: Continue being the rhythmic powerhouse and an engaging presence. In many ways, the drummer drives the energy of the live show, and you're doing a great job – the key is making sure the audience can feel and see that energy as much as possible.

Bassist

Strengths: The bass playing was solid and held down the low end well. You provided the groove foundation that kept the songs together. Technically, it sounded like you played the parts accurately and consistently, which is crucial.

Suggestions for Improvement:

- **Embrace the Bass Role:** At times, it felt like you might be a guitarist who is filling in on bass (a common scenario). If that's the case, try to **get into the bass mindset** more during performances. Great bassists have a certain swagger or groove – they move with the rhythm. Even if you're an understated personality, a bit of movement (swaying with the beat, stepping to the groove) can visually show that the music is flowing through you.
- **Lock in with the Drummer:** The best live rhythm sections have a visible chemistry. Turn a bit to face the drummer occasionally, make eye contact on transitions or hits. A nod or a grin when you and the drummer hit something tight can be small, but it shows you're in sync and enjoying it. The audience picks up on that band chemistry.
- **Stage Presence:** As the bassist, you're often the bridge between the rhythm and melody – try stepping forward when you have an interesting bassline, or during a funky part of a song, groove at the front. Also, if you can do backing vocals, even just some shouts or harmonies, stepping up to a mic can increase your presence (if comfortable).
- **Passion for the Music:** Show that you love the songs you're playing. If you find yourself concentrating hard (and thus looking "serious" or static), practise the songs until they're second nature so you can look up, smile, and engage more. Sometimes just enjoying yourself on stage (even a subtle head-bob or closed-eyes-feel-the-music moment) translates volumes to the audience's enjoyment.

Goal: Grow from a solid backing player to a more **visibly engaged performer**. The audience might not always consciously notice the bass, but they feel it – and if they see you enjoying laying down that groove, it amplifies the impact.

Keyboardist

Strengths: The keyboard adds depth and atmosphere to The Mirandas' sound. Having a dedicated keyboardist allows for richer arrangements and the inclusion of piano/organ/synth parts that fill out the songs nicely. Musically, the parts were played correctly and the sounds chosen fit the songs.

Suggestions for Improvement:

- **Stage Energy:** It was observed that you appeared a bit static or disengaged on stage. Keyboards often tie a player to one spot, but even within that, there's room to show energy. Simple things like nodding your head to the beat, occasionally looking out at the audience and smiling, or even a bit of upper-body movement during big moments can make a difference. Avoid the look of "standing completely still just pressing keys" – audiences will mentally tune out an unmoving person.
- **Positioning:** If you prefer to focus on playing and can't move much, perhaps position yourself slightly off-centre, so the audience's primary focus goes to the more active members (singer/

guitarist/drummer). Alternatively, angle the keyboard so that your face is more visible to the crowd rather than your side profile. This way people can see you're actually playing and into it.

- **Sound Highlights:** If there are songs where the keyboard is featured (say a piano intro or a synth solo or a prominent hook), that's your time to shine. Don't be afraid to draw attention in those moments – for instance, standing up from the stool when playing an intense part, or simply indicating with your expressions that “here comes something cool.” The band could even spotlight you (figuratively or literally with a light) during a signature keyboard moment.
- **Engagement with Band:** Even if you're focused on your instrument, try to engage with your bandmates. Share a smile or a glance during a fun moment, or give a cue if needed. Being more visibly connected will show that you're part of the band's camaraderie, not just “the guy on keys.”
- **If It's Not Your Passion...:** This is delicate, but if you truly feel you're not as into the performance aspect, consider if that role is right for you long-term. The Mirandas' stage show could benefit from every member being fully invested in performing. It might be worth discussing within the band how you feel on stage and if there's a way to make it more enjoyable for you – or if perhaps another musician or arrangement (like running some keyboard parts on backing tracks) would serve better in high-energy shows. But ideally, with a bit of effort, you can absolutely be a vibrant part of the live show.

Goal: Be not just a background sound-provider, but an **engaged performer** on keys. When every member on stage appears enthusiastic and involved, it elevates the entire band's presence.

Backing Vocalists

Strengths: Having two backing vocalists is a big asset for The Mirandas. It allows for rich harmonies and a fuller live sound. The backing singers at the show had **strong voices** (great pipes) and added a lot to the choruses and overall vocal depth. There's also a nice visual element in having multiple singers on stage – it gives a feeling of a larger, dynamic ensemble.

Suggestions for Improvement:

- **Utilize Them More Prominently:** Don't let the backing vocalists fade into the background. There were opportunities where they could have been featured more. For example, if a song starts with vocals, consider having the backing singers start the first line or harmonize from the very beginning to create a spine-tingling a cappella intro. Or, in a breakdown, let them carry a refrain softly before the band kicks back in.
- **Stage Placement and Movement:** If they were off to the side or rear before, think about bringing them to the front corners of the stage, or at least during key moments have them step forward. Choreography doesn't need to be complex, but even simple coordinated sways, claps, or step-touches in time with the music can make the performance more engaging visually. When two or more people move in unison, it's naturally eye-catching.
- **Occasional Lead Lines or Call-and-Response:** If either of the backing vocalists is comfortable, you might arrange a part of a song where they sing a solo line or do a call-and-response with the lead singer. This can be exciting for the audience and also gives the lead vocalist a moment to rest or interact differently. Plus, it shows off the talent within the band – that it's not just one voice.
- **Interaction with Main Vocals:** Emphasise the harmonies – perhaps have one of the backing singers sing a sustained note as the lead singer ad-libs around it in a bridge, or have them echo certain phrases for dramatic effect. These are arrangement ideas, but they tie into using your backing vocalists to their fullest.
- **Personalities on Display:** Encourage the backing vocalists to show their own personality on stage too – whether it's through their attire (possibly complementary to the rest of the band's

style) or how they engage (a smile, a dance move, hyping up the crowd with a hand wave, etc.). They are part of the “show” and should be presented as such, not just as anonymous support. From what I saw, you have a diverse and talented pair of singers – let the audience see that energy.

Goal: Turn the backing vocal section into a **real highlight** of your live performance. By featuring their voices and presence more, you enrich the overall sound and give the audience more to connect with on stage. It also underlines a professional touch – many up-and-coming bands don’t have dedicated backing vocalists, so use that to stand out.

Evolving the Live Sound and Setlist Creativity

Observation: The live arrangements mostly mirrored the album versions of your songs, which is a solid approach but leaves room for live creativity. Also, at times the mix wasn’t perfect (vocals occasionally drowned out, certain instruments too loud or too soft). These are normal challenges in a live setting, especially on a festival stage with limited soundcheck time.

Recommendation: Don’t be afraid to **experiment with your songs in the live setting** – and pay attention to the sound balance:

- **Dynamic Arrangements:** Live performances allow you to add drama and dynamics beyond what’s on the studio recordings. For example, you might start a song more stripped down than the album version and build it up slowly, or add an extended improvised section in the middle of a track when the crowd is feeling it. You can also end a song differently – big rock endings, smooth segues into the next tune, or crowd sing-alongs that aren’t part of the studio track.
- **Spotlight Moments:** Identify the strongest moment in each song and make sure it really pops live. If a song has a great chorus, maybe drop other instruments out for one line to let the vocals shine once, or have the drummer do a half-time feel to make the last chorus hit harder, etc. These little arrangement tweaks can make a song’s live version even more exciting than the record.
- **Call and Response:** Use live shows to interact through music – e.g., in a breakdown, the singer can sing a line and the guitarist echoes it with a riff, or the singer gets the crowd to sing back a “oh oh oh” part if there is one. Even if it’s not on the album, these moments are what people remember from concerts.
- **Improvisation and Jams:** If any of you have a background in jamming, consider working in a short jam or medley. It could be as simple as tacking on a familiar cover song chorus at the end of one of your songs, or a brief instrumental jam linking two songs. This shows off musicianship and can be really fun live, but make sure it’s tight and doesn’t derail the momentum.
- **Setlist Pacing:** When planning the setlist, mix up tempos and moods in a deliberate way. For instance, you might not want too many slow songs back-to-back; or if you have a really high-energy song, follow it with one that gives both band and audience a slight breather (where you can talk to them, etc.), then ramp up again. Think of it like a rollercoaster – build up, bring down for a moment, then up even higher.
- **Soundcheck and Sound Balance:** Work closely with the sound engineer to ensure the main elements (especially lead vocals) are always clear. If you notice on stage that, say, the keys are overpowering the vocals, hand-signal to bring it down, or have a band member subtly convey to the engineer. It might even be worth having a friend or your manager stand in the audience during soundcheck or the first song to gauge the mix and signal adjustments.
- **Own Your Mix:** If possible, travel with a trusted sound tech who knows your music. That’s not always feasible at an early stage, but some bands invest in at least having someone at the front of house they trust to get the balance right. At minimum, have a conversation with the festival/

venue sound team about any specific balance you want (e.g., “please make sure the backing vocals come through in the chorus of ‘Queens with No Crown,’ it’s important”).

- **Record and Review:** As mentioned, recording your shows and listening back is one of the best ways to find opportunities to improve. You might notice “oh, that part felt a bit flat live, maybe we should extend it,” or “the crowd really cheered when we did that extra break – let’s keep that in.” Use live recordings to continuously refine your arrangements.

Finally, consider the bigger picture of your music’s evolution. The songs are great, and as you perform them more, you might discover new facets to them. Many classic tracks became legendary only after being honed live and sometimes re-produced with a fresh perspective. In the future, if the opportunity arises to work with an experienced producer or mentor, be open to it – a good producer can help highlight your strengths and polish the material. Think of your current album or songs not as final, unchangeable products, but as strong foundations that can grow. Some of the greatest hits in history went through multiple iterations before becoming the versions we know and love.

The good news is you have **“crazy potential”** in your songwriting and sound. With continuous experimentation and refinement, that potential will fully shine through.

Conclusion

Watching The Mirandas at Festival F was a privilege – it’s always exciting to see a band on the rise, especially one with songs that resonate and a clear passion for music. The feedback above is detailed because I truly believe in what you’re doing and want to see you **succeed** on an even bigger scale.

To recap the most important themes:

- **Plan your live shows** as thoughtfully as you write your songs – make the whole experience captivating.
- **Capture and share your performances** to reach more people beyond the venue.
- **Play live often** to build your skills and your following; there’s no shortcut to the chemistry forged by frequent gigging.
- **Engage your audience and fans** at every turn – on stage and off – to turn one-time listeners into die-hard supporters.
- **Polish the presentation** – from storytelling to stage layout to energy – so that your talent is conveyed in the strongest way possible.
- **Embrace feedback and growth:** It might be through trying new things on stage, shuffling band roles a bit, or even seeking outside guidance, but always be refining your craft.

Remember the spirit of **Radical Candor** behind these notes: I offer this critique because I care about you and your success. It’s much easier for someone to say “great show” and leave it at that – but a true friend will tell you what they honestly think could be better, out of respect and a desire to help.

Please take all of this as friendly advice. You are, of course, the artists and the ultimate judges of what fits your vision. Use what resonates, discuss it among yourselves, and feel free to discard anything that doesn’t.

I have immense faith in The Mirandas. You’ve got the creativity, the songs, and the drive. With some focused improvements and continued hard work, there’s nothing stopping you from achieving the success you’re aiming for. I’m excited to keep watching you grow and will always be cheering you on.

Thank you for reading, and here’s to many more amazing shows ahead!