

TRAVEL ADVICE

FOR MUSICIANS WITH INSTRUMENTS

FROM

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MAKING YOUR RESERVATION

Ask ticket agent for priority seating when making reservations. Request (or purchase) Zone 1 boarding, which will allow you early access to overhead bins to stowage.

When booking air tickets, musicians must inform carrier representative(s) that he or she will be transporting a musical instrument.

Air carriers are required to adequately inform passengers and the public about the limitations and restrictions imposed.

Rules relating to on-board stowage will apply to any instrument that meets FAA carry-on size requirements.

PACKING & CARRYING YOUR INSTRUMENT AND GEAR

Remove any sharp tools (for example, reed knives and end pins) and liquid items (cleaning fluids and valve oil) that do not comply with TSA's three-ounce regulation.

If there's a possibility that your instrument will not be allowed in the cabin with you, be sure to have a proper travel case to avoid damage.

BOARD EARLY: overhead and under seat stowage is on a first come, first serve basis.

Once an instrument is stowed in-cabin, it cannot be removed or be replaced by other bags.

DEAL CALMLY WITH PROBLEMS

If you are stopped by a flight attendant, calmly and quickly explain the precautions you have taken to prepare your instrument to safely travel in-cabin.

- Be accommodating by suggesting placing the instrument in the section of the aircraft designated by gate and flight attendants.
- Do not block the way of boarding passengers.
- If necessary, immediately ask to de-plane so that you can resolve this matter with airline supervisors. Remember, you have approximately 15 minutes to resolve this issue before the plane backs away from the gate.
- Finally, prepare yourself for the possibility that you may not be able to travel with your instrument in the cabin, even if you have followed all possible procedures. It is important to have a backup plan.

It is crucial that, as a traveling musician, you recognize 3 important facts:

- 1) The most important responsibility of airport and transportation officials is security.
- 2) The most important responsibility of gate attendants and flight attendants is safety.
- 3) The most important responsibilities of the captain are safety and security.

HELPFUL DOCUMENTATION

Musicians should study and follow guidance outlined in federal and air carrier online policy statements.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION:
www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/musical-instruments

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:
www.dot.gov/airconsumer/air-travel-musical-instruments

The AFM Partnered with DOT, FAA, and airline industry to resolve long overdue inconsistent travel policies. Read more at: internationalmusician.org/musical-instrument-airline-carriage-rule/

With over 80,000 members, the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (AFM) is the largest organization in the world dedicated to representing the interests of professional musicians. Learn more about the benefits of membership.

VISIT AFM.ORG OR INTERNATIONALMUSICIAN.ORG

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