Rarefied Recording Session Preparation Checklist

- **Are the songs ready to record?**
  - Structure?
  - Arrangement?
  - Tempo/Key?
  - Lyrics, sheet music, charts?
- **Have you practiced enough?**
  - Does everyone know their parts?
  - If using a click, is everyone comfortable playing to one?
  - Have you memorized the lyrics or are you bringing a copy?
- **Are your instruments/gear ready?**
  - Guitars recently setup/intonated?
  - New strings on (if desired)? Don't forget an extra pack!
  - Any technical issues? (buzzes, hums, rattles, etc.)
  - New heads for drums?
  - Are you comfortable tuning drums or do you need help? (hire a drum tech if needed)
  - Any need to rent an instrument or hire a session player?
  - Have singers been taking care of their vocal chords? (avoid smoking and drinking prior to your session)
- **Have you discussed "sonics" with your engineer?**
  - Have you provided references?
  - Is there a clear sonic vision you can communicate?
- **Do you have a "day of" game plan?**
  - Which musicians are recording initial basic tracks vs. overdubbing?
  - Which song will you record first, second, etc.?
  - Do you have a plan for snacks, drinks, and meals?
  - Does everyone know where and when to arrive?
  - Does anyone need to leave early and have you accounted for that?
  - Do you have a hard drive or USB stick to bring for your files?
- **Are your financials in order?**
  - Do you have a budget for the various stages of the project (recording, mixing, mastering, release)?
  - Are all band members prepared to pay their share?
  - What payment method will you use?

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