



Frequently Asked Questions about Bill's Tech Rider:

For Family Concerts, why does Bill insist on families sitting together?

Most of Bill's work is intergenerational and he wants parents and children to share at that moment. When the audience is divided, adults don't listen as well, tend to carry on their own conversations, and Bill is then responsible for the behavior of small children in the front. It's better to have chairs right up to the stage area, rather than leave a large open space in front. If there is an open space in front of the stage, there must be adults responsible for the children in that area.

What is a monitor? Why is it important? And why does Bill require one?

A monitor is a speaker directed at the performer so he can hear what the audience hears. A performer needs to hear himself, and in larger spaces, with the speakers in front of the performer, the sound disappears into the audience, and the performer can't be sure what they're singing or playing. Lack of monitor in larger spaces can lead to straining of voice and loss of subtlety in performance. Having a monitor is important to Bill – both for his health and for the health of the performance.

For School Assemblies, why does Bill insist on homogenous groups (same or contiguous grades)?

Bill's school shows are especially geared toward the particular ages he is seeing, and there is a great difference in the emotional and intellectual life of a first grader and a sixth grader. Since Bill's performances are language-based, we have found that both children and teachers are better served with age specific groups.

Why are classroom workshops limited to 50 participants?

Bill finds that if you have more than 50 children in a workshop it turns into a lecture or a performance rather than a hands on, participatory experience.

Why does Bill need a sound check for a Storytelling Festival? If I just want Bill to perform stories, do I need a sound system?

A lot of Bill's stories contain songs within the story ("Zanzibar", "Bojabi", "You're Not the Boss of Me", "The Great Sled Race") so Bill will need to do a quick sound check to balance instrument and vocal levels, or consult with the sound technician. Regardless of the type of performance (music/ storytelling) a sound system is required for all audiences over 150 people.