

Wisdom for the solo Acoustic guitarist:

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Here are 7 bits of wisdom to a beginning acoustic artist:

1. Practice and expand your guitar confidence. Learn some covers... work on scales and increase your guitar-playing ability. The solo acoustic guys that really can command the guitar definitely have a distinguished presence on stage.
2. When writing songs, keep the range out of the rafters. A lot of songs seem too high for people to comfortably sing. You don't need to maintain that whiny-pop vocal sound to make good music. Just be you. You might need to learn how to transpose songs easily into other keys (which would be a good part of step 1) That will help with the next thing:
3. When singing... keep the words coming from your heart. Speak them through song. Music is a language, just with different grammar and vocabulary... just like a drawing or theatre... You can't just recite songs... you must tell them.
4. Learn to worship by yourself. That may sound strange... particularly if you don't know God. But if you can feel free and comfortable just playing in your room before the Lord... than it's no different on stage. Because you're not there to please the audience or man... you're just there to be you and bless people with your music and incite.
5. You may have a good ear, but always work on your pitch. Always be listening to yourself; your tone, and vocal quality. Can people understand what you're saying? You may think you sound ridiculous over-annunciating syllables, but the audience can then actually understand you.
6. Play with great people. Find people who are excellent and work to hang out with them, jam with them, and glean all you can from them. Don't play with people who suck just for fun.
7. Enjoy it. You're gifted as not all are.

Hope to see you on stage!