

Signed Music Memorabilia Checklist

CDs, vinyl, guitars and drumheads — the 10-point pre-purchase check

- ☐ 1. Prefer items certified by Beckett, JSA or PSA/DNA — the three authenticators the trade actually accepts.
- ☐ 2. Match the autograph against dated exemplars: artists' signatures change across tours and decades.
- ☐ 3. For guitars and drumheads, ask where and when it was signed — a concrete story you can check beats a vague one.
- ☐ 4. Check the pen type against the era and surface: wrong-instrument signatures (e.g., ballpoint on a drumhead) are a flag.
- ☐ 5. Signed CDs: confirm whether the market for that title is hand-signed inserts vs. printed signatures.
- ☐ 6. Inspect under angled light: real ink shows stroke direction, pressure variation and shine differences.
- ☐ 7. Verify any hologram/sticker COA number in the authenticator's online database.
- ☐ 8. Beware bundled 'COAs' from unknown issuers — a certificate is only as good as the name behind it.
- ☐ 9. Compare sold results for the same artist, item type and certification level.
- ☐ 10. Document everything at purchase: photos, receipts, and the seller's authenticity guarantee in writing.