

House Concert Primer

You Can Host a House Concert

Want to see a professional performer in an intimate setting with good food and conversation? Why not try hosting a house concert? In many parts of the country, house concerts are an accepted and valued part of the music scene.

Imagine a musician in your living room, no amplification and 20-60 of your friends and neighbors. Cool, eh?

There are all kinds of house concerts. Some are very discriminating and are booked years in advance. Others are very informal and spontaneous. Some people operate a series of concerts once a month or quarterly. A house concert is a wonderful event for the artist and if you've never done it before, we will even help you get it together

Why do we like them so much? Well, we get to play a concert in an intimate setting, most times with no PA. We get to meet people and talk about our songs. It's a wonderful way to build an audience and really get to know various parts of the country. Plus we have become great friends with many of our hosts.

How do you do it? Well, all you need is a good size living room, back yard or basement and a few entertaining skills. If you live in an apartment complex perhaps there is a common room that can be rented for events. They can be as cozy as 20 or as large as 60. Invite your friends, ask them to invite their friends.

Explain that this is to be an intimate concert experience with a donation at the door for the artist. Most folks suggest \$7-\$12, with

\$10 being the most common. Pick what is appropriate for your community, and remember that the performers are working for these donations.

Plan to have the artist play two sets with a break in the middle. Many folks have a potluck beforehand with the audience arriving an hour before showtime to eat and socialize. Some have snacks or desserts at the break.

The performer's CDs and merchandise are available for purchase at the show with the bonus that they can be signed that night.

We encourage you to try it out and see if this is something you'd be interested in. Let's do it!

For more information, there are good resources via the web, including houseconcerts.com.