

House Concerts

A guide to help you hold a successful event!



The Basics:

- Held indoors or outdoors on weekends • 20-50+ people (depending on your space)
- Paid for by a \$10-20 donation per guest (to the performer)
- Host typically includes light snacks, beverages or a pot-luck dinner
- Attended by the host's friends, neighbors, co-workers, and maybe a few fans of the artist
- Very intimate performance— the audiences sit close and are attentive
- Artist sells merchandise
- Host typically houses and feeds the artist for the night if necessary

Choosing your space:

When the weather turns seasonally ideal, some hosts do patio, garden, or backyard shows, but you always need a backup (inside) in case the weather doesn't cooperate.

Indoors, the living room is usually the best choice, often providing a balance between a cozy spot and the opportunity to stretch into an adjoining area. Also, a window or fireplace can make a nice background scene for the performer.

You don't have to overdo it — just make the room comfortable and accessible. You don't have to create Carnegie Hall in your home.

Preparing your space:

Consider:, you'll probably need to re-arrange some furniture, like removing the coffee table and pushing the couches to the side of the room. You'll most likely use every chair in the house (dining room chairs, barstools, ottomans, office chairs, etc.) Your neighbors can be a great resource for free chairs (especially barstools — which make a great back row.) They are coming over anyway, aren't they?

Prepare the rooms — for the artist and for the show.

- Artists really enjoy having a secluded place to warm-up and relax before the show. If you don't have a dedicated guest bedroom for them, try to find a space (basement, office, etc) where they can have some uninterrupted time alone for an hour or so. It really helps artists perform at their best if they don't have to be constantly in "mingle-mode" for the entire visit. Artists will appreciate a few bottles of water, and an available light snack could hold them over until the potluck. Tea and coffee are good to have on hand as well.

- Most people underestimate the number of guests they can comfortably fit in their living room. To estimate your capacity, clear the middle of the room (coffee table, etc.) and move the couches to the side or against a wall if possible. Then, start arranging available chairs (dining room, kitchen, breakfast nook, office chairs) to get an idea of the number of people your space could hold. Once you've set up a few rows, it's easy to imagine how the rest of it would fall into place. Remember to allow at least a 4' by 6' area for the performer — more if it's a duo or group.

Your guest list

- Create your invitation - frequently used platforms are Eventbrite or Facebook events. Send 4-6 weeks ahead of the date

- Keep track of RSVPs. Be aware that 10- 20 percent of the people who say they will attend will not show up on the day of the show.

Waiting List:

- If you are uneasy about over-booking (accepting more RSVPs than you can seat), start a waiting list and promise to contact those folks when seats open up. You'll send a reminder email 2-3 days before the show to confirm everyone.

