



A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR HOSTS

HOUSE CONCERTS

HOST KIT

Everything you need to create a warm, memorable evening of live acoustic music in your home.

Songs | Stories | Laughter | Connection

A house concert is not a bar gig moved into a living room. It is a listening experience - close, relaxed, personal and built around the connection between performer and audience.

THE IDEA

Welcome to the House Concert Experience

A house concert works because it is intimate. Guests are close to the music, the performer can tell the stories behind the songs, and the host creates an atmosphere that feels more like an evening among friends than a public event.

20-40 guests

A room can feel full without feeling crowded. Smaller is completely fine - a focused group of 15 can make a wonderful audience.

90-minute show

A strong format is two 40-minute sets with a 15-20 minute intermission, followed by an informal meet-and-greet.

Listening first

Conversation is encouraged before the show and at intermission. During songs, the room becomes a true listening room.

What the host provides

- A welcoming room and enough chairs
- Invitations and guest communication
- A simple arrival plan and restroom access
- Water and a light refreshment plan
- A quiet performance environment

What the performer brings

- A polished acoustic show
- Stories and conversation between songs
- Basic performance gear as agreed in advance
- A clear schedule and setup plan
- A memorable, personal evening

THE HOSTING MINDSET

You do not need a perfect home, a stage, or professional production. The goal is simply to create a comfortable room where people can hear, see and pay attention. Warmth beats perfection.

PLANNING

Your Host Timeline

**3-4 WEEKS BEFORE**

Choose the date, decide the guest capacity, confirm the contribution/ticket approach, and send the first invitation.

**2 WEEKS BEFORE**

Follow up with invited guests. Confirm seating, parking notes, arrival time, food/beverage plan and any accessibility considerations.

**1 WEEK BEFORE**

Confirm expected attendance. Walk the room from a guest's point of view. Decide exactly where the performer, chairs, merch table and refreshments will go.

**1-2 DAYS BEFORE**

Send guests a short reminder with address, parking, doors time, show time, contribution amount and the request to arrive before the music starts.

**SHOW DAY**

Set the room early, keep the performance area uncluttered, provide water, dim overhead lights, turn on warm lamps and welcome guests personally.

A SIMPLE RULE

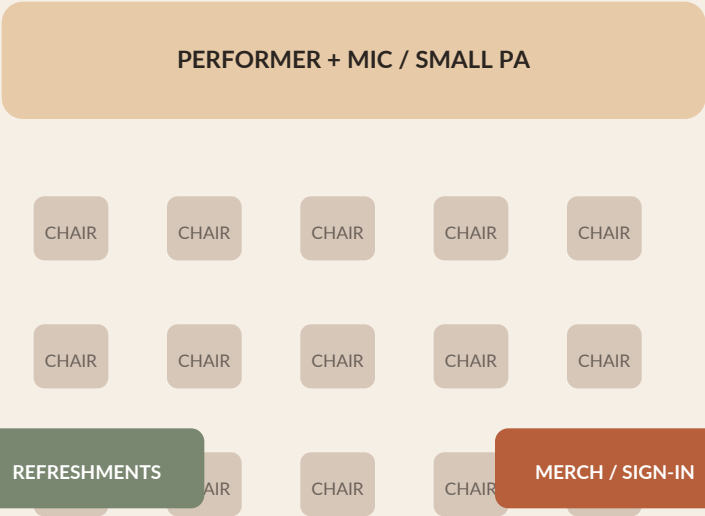
Do the logistical work before guests arrive so the evening itself can feel effortless.

THE SPACE

Room Setup + Technical Basics

The best setup is the one that gives every guest a clear sightline and keeps the performer close enough that the room feels personal.

SIMPLE LIVING-ROOM LAYOUT



Room checklist

- ☐ Chairs face the same direction
- ☐ No high-traffic doorway behind performer
- ☐ Guests can see over one another
- ☐ Phones and noisy appliances are silenced
- ☐ Overhead lights are softened or off
- ☐ Performer has water within reach
- ☐ One nearby outlet is available
- ☐ Pets are settled before showtime

TECHNICAL BASICS

Room size	Suggested approach
Up to ~20 guests	Often fully acoustic or one compact vocal mic.
20-40 guests	Small vocal PA can help; guitar may remain acoustic.
Larger / outdoors	Confirm amplification, power and weather plan in advance.

FILL THE ROOM

Invitation + Guest Communication

The invitation should sound personal. House concerts work best when guests feel they are being invited into a special evening, not marketed to.

READY-TO-USE INVITATION

HOUSE CONCERTS

Songs | Stories | Laughter | Connection

Join us for a special evening of live acoustic music in the intimacy of our home.

This is not a bar gig or a traditional concert. It is a chance to sit close, listen to the songs, hear the stories behind them, laugh a little and spend an evening with friends.

Doors: 6:30 PM

Music: 7:15 PM

Suggested contribution: \$30 per guest

Seating is limited - reservation required.

Invitation tips

- Invite personally before posting publicly.
- Give a clear doors time and music time.
- Say that seating is limited.
- Explain the contribution/ticket amount upfront.

REMINDER TEXT

Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow! Doors open at 6:30 and the music starts at 7:15. Please arrive before showtime so we can settle everyone before the first song.

OPTIONAL SOCIAL POST

We are opening our home for an intimate evening of live acoustic music. Expect songs, stories, laughter and the kind of listening experience you just do not get in a noisy venue. Seating is limited, so message us if you would like to join us. [DATE] | [DOORS] | [SHOWTIME] | [CONTRIBUTION]

Tip: use one strong photo, not a collage. Keep the post warm and personal, and direct people to RSVP rather than posting the full address publicly.

MAKE IT EASY

Contributions, Tickets + Hospitality

Choose one payment approach and explain it clearly. Guests should never have to guess whether the evening is free, ticketed or donation-based.

Suggested contribution

\$25-\$40 per guest

Friendly and flexible. Put the suggested amount in the invitation and collect it at RSVP or at the door.

Host guarantee

Flat fee agreed with artist

The host covers the agreed fee and may choose whether guests contribute.

Fixed ticket

Set price per guest

Best when capacity is firm. Advance payment reduces no-shows.

HOSPITALITY

- Cold water for performer
- Coffee/tea or simple soft drinks
- Light snacks during arrival/intermission
- A private place for coat/case/bag
- No elaborate meal required

FOOD + ALCOHOL

Keep refreshments separate from the performance area so glasses, plates and conversation do not become part of the show. If alcohol is served, the host is responsible for local rules, safe service and transportation considerations.

THE EVENING

A Great 90-Minute Show

6:30 PM	Doors open	Greetings, drinks, light conversation and seating.
7:10 PM	Host welcome	A 2-minute welcome: thank guests, explain the listening-room idea and introduce the performer.
7:15 PM	Set One	About 40 minutes of songs and stories.
7:55 PM	Intermission	15-20 minutes for refreshments, conversation and restroom break.
8:15 PM	Set Two	About 40 minutes. Save a strong closing song and one optional encore.
8:55 PM	Meet + greet	Photos, conversation, merchandise and an easy invitation for someone else to host the next one.

SAMPLE HOST WELCOME

"Thanks for being here. Tonight is a little different from a regular concert - we get to sit close, really listen, and hear some of the stories behind the songs. Please make yourselves comfortable, keep phones quiet during the music, and save conversation for the break. We are very happy to have you here."

KEEP IT COMFORTABLE

Guest Experience + Frequently Asked Questions

GUEST ETIQUETTE

- ☐ Arrive before the music begins.
- ☐ Silence phones and notifications.
- ☐ Listen during songs and stories.
- ☐ Save longer conversations for intermission.
- ☐ Ask before recording video.
- ☐ Respect the host's home and neighbors.

HOST COMFORT CHECK

- ☐ Clear path to restroom
- ☐ Coats and bags have a home
- ☐ Parking note was sent
- ☐ Temperature is comfortable
- ☐ Outdoor smoking area defined if needed
- ☐ Neighbors considered for volume/parking

Frequently asked questions

Do I need a stage?

No. A rug, stool/chair and a little open floor space are enough.

Do I need a PA?

Often not for very small rooms. Confirm with the performer based on room size and audience count.

Can guests bring food?

Yes, but keep food service outside the performance itself. Potluck works best before the show or during intermission.

What if someone cancels?

A few cancellations are normal. Keep a small waitlist when possible.

Can children attend?

Absolutely if the host and performer agree and the children can comfortably participate in a listening-room environment.

What about neighbors?

Keep volume reasonable, finish at a sensible hour and tell close neighbors about extra cars in advance.

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Day-of-Show Checklist

ROOM

- ☐ Chairs placed and sightlines checked
- ☐ Performance area clear
- ☐ Warm lamps on / harsh overhead lights off
- ☐ Restroom stocked
- ☐ Pets settled
- ☐ Noise sources turned off

ARRIVAL

- ☐ Performer parking spot available
- ☐ Load-in path clear
- ☐ Water ready
- ☐ Refreshments set out
- ☐ Contribution/ticket plan ready
- ☐ Guest list / RSVP list handy

SHOW

- ☐ Host welcome ready
- ☐ Phones reminder planned
- ☐ Intermission timing agreed
- ☐ Merch area visible
- ☐ End-of-night payment settled
- ☐ One person designated for photos if desired

KEEP THE SERIES GROWING

The best time to find the next host is at the end of a successful evening. Keep it casual:

"If you enjoyed tonight and can imagine doing something like this in your own living room, come talk to us afterward. House concerts grow one room and one group of friends at a time."

Before guests leave, make sure the current host has been thanked, the room has been left in good order, and any next steps are clear.