

House Concert Guide

Hosting a house concert is awesome and easy! You only need three things:

1. A space for the performance.
2. The ability to round up twenty audience members.
3. A willingness to invite your guests to make a donate at the end of the night.

That's it! I'll lay out the details below.



A Space For Performing

You need a space that will allow 20 attendees to sit and listen. The space can be in a house, but it doesn't have to be. There are endless other possibilities. Here are some characteristics of a suitable space.

1. Everyone has a seat. This is important because your guests will enjoy the experience much more if they are comfortable and can become immersed in the music.
2. Everyone is together. Keeping people together eliminates the temptation for the separated group to chit-chat or move around during the performance. This rule is flexible, but it's worth bearing in mind.

Things You Do Not Need

1. Food. If you love entertaining and want to provide food for your guests, go for it! However, you can schedule the concert later and let folks feed themselves.
2. Special lighting or decorations. Of course, I won't stop you from decorating, but the homey feel is what makes these shows unique. I want hosting a concert to be easy!



Getting 20 Guests

For some people this is very easy, but for most it will require a little work. Here are some tips. Plan on inviting 40-60 people in order to get 20 who will actually come. You will probably need to start inviting people 3 weeks prior to the event. Creating a Facebook invite is a great way to get the ball rolling, but it won't be enough. Nothing replaces good-old-fashion personal invitations. Asking in person, personal (non-mass) texts, and phone calls are much more effective at getting people to commit, especially if you ask early and then follow up as the event draws closer. With a little persistence, you'll easily gather 20 guests!

Why 20 Guests?

It feels like a real event when the house is full. Having fewer people makes the evening feel like a night of hanging out. Your guests will have a better experience if they come to a well attended event that is abuzz with excitement. The other reason is financial. At twenty people, the donation amounts are usually high enough to make the evening worth it for me.



Asking For A Donation

House concerts are donation based events. I do not ask for a guarantee or a fee of any kind from hosts. I do ask, however, that hosts let folks know that the event is donation based and that there will be an invitation to donate at the end of the set. Playing for donations has consistently worked out better for me than trying to get a guarantee, and it totally removes the money barrier for both the hosts and the attendees. It's beautiful!

I ask hosts to close out the night by thanking everyone for coming and by inviting them to donate. It works best for the host to encourage his or her friends to donate. If you really dislike the idea of asking for a donation, I am open to you paying me a flat fee for coming. Email me, and we can work it out.

Overview of the Night

1. I'll come over an hour or so before the event starts.
2. Your guests will come over for an hour before the music starts to visit and settle in.
3. Music goes for about an hour. The host closes things up and invites guests to donate.
4. We all hang out and visit for awhile until things wind down.

It's Going To Be Awesome!

House concerts are unforgettable experiences! Please consider hosting one. Get in touch, and we'll get the ball rolling.



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