

Joanne Griffith's House Concert Guide

Thank you for your interest in hosting a house concert. I will work with you to create a unique event that fosters a sense of community through music.

This guide is intended to nudge and support you along a worthwhile journey. As I will be updating it over time, I welcome your comments and questions.

The “house” or venue



A house concert is an invitation-only event presented by a host who does not profit from it. Staged anywhere – a living room, rooftop, big house, small house, apartment, winery, studio, etc. – it can be adapted to your wishes and needs. The “house” is a space of your choosing, where friends can gather, sit, and enjoy a concert.

The only requirement is that everyone in attendance be able to gather – seated – in the same space for the entire hour-long concert.

The date

We will work together to pick a date for your house concert.

In 2019, tour dates are set for weekends from June–September.

At the end of this guide, you'll be asked to provide dates in July, August, or September when you are available to host a concert.



The guests



The best scenario for a great show involves an audience of **at least 20 people**. With fewer than 20 people, the concert lacks the exciting event feel and may become financially unviable.

To achieve minimal attendance, hosts generally need to invite a good deal more than 20, as only about half of invitees tend to accept the invitation.

So invite double the number of people you'd like to have at the concert – if you're aiming for 20, invite 40, and so on.

If you don't think you'll be able to draw 20 people, you might want to consider co-hosting the show with a friend to increase attendance.

If you have room and seating for more people, that's great – the more, the merrier! If you have a bigger event in mind, please let us know; we'll be happy to accommodate you.

The invitation



Invite a bunch of friends!

We'll provide some key elements that you'll need to include in your invitation. But be sure to have fun spreading the word.

Important! This is a donation-based concert – and this should be mentioned in the invitation. It could read like this:

**This is a donation-based concert.
Please come prepared to make a donation to the artist at the end of the show.**

We don't specify a suggested donation amount. Here's why:

1. We often do best when people are allowed to donate what they are moved to give in the moment, without prior expectations.
2. It's important to us that the event be accessible to all music lovers, even the cash-poor – sharing music is key.

Some hosts prefer not to ask for donations, preferring to pay an up-front guarantee. If this approach interests you, let us know, and we'll discuss the fee structure for a non-donation show.

You may want to let your guests know that food and beverages will be served, or perhaps you'd prefer to organize a potluck – this is entirely up to you and not a requirement.

Please be sure to ask your guests to RSVP.

The concert

Now that the show is confirmed – RSVPs are in, and details are out of the way – here's how it will go down!



- Musician(s) and I will arrive to do a soundcheck an hour before guests are scheduled to show up.
- Guests arrive at the prescribed time – usually in the evening but afternoons are possible as well.
- After an hour of hanging out, everyone gathers in the performance space where people find their seats, the host (that's you!) gives a brief introduction, and **I perform for about an hour.**
- As soon as I've sung the last note, you come up front with me with a vase, basket, or box of some kind to make an announcement that goes something like this:

Thank you all for coming tonight. I hope you enjoyed the show as much as I did. I want to remind you that this is a donation-based concert. Your donations tonight will directly benefit the artist and will show our appreciation for the experience we shared tonight. I'm going to leave this vessel right here and encourage you to give generously. Thanks!

- Next, we all hang out a bit more until the guests start to leave.

A note on the event's flow, and an example schedule

Pre-show mingling time should last about an hour. If it's shorter than an hour, people don't have enough time to get comfortable; if it goes beyond an hour, the event's focus becomes a bit fuzzy. This isn't a party – it's a concert.

Here's an example schedule for a 7:30 p.m. performance:

5:30 p.m. – we arrive and do our set up

6:30 p.m. – guests arrive

7:30 p.m. – concert begins

8:30 p.m. – concert ends

After which, we can, of course, all hang out together. And that's how we organize an awesome house concert.

A note on donations

Our form of house concert is only viable if audience members accept to donate. The host's cooperation is thus crucial.

The success of donations is directly linked to the enthusiasm of the host's speech at the end of the concert.

For that matter, guests are generally quite receptive and happy to support a unique and memorable event.

All of these details – from the invitation to the set-up to the flow – serve one purpose:

They set the tone for a unique and special event – an intimate concert in which magical memories and meaningful connections will be made through music.

You've read the guide and are interested in hosting a house concert during our 2019 summer tour; then the next step is to fill out the form: <http://www.123formbuilder.com/form-4903230/joanne-griffith-house-concert-form>. Please answer ALL the questions. We'll need your reply ASAP.

In the upcoming weeks, I'll be compiling the information received and stitching together a schedule that works for as many as people as possible – this should be complete by the end of May if not sooner. As soon as this is done, I will contact you to set a date.

I look forward to doing a house concert with you!

Joanne

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Acknowledgment: This document is an adaptation of a guide written by Shannon Curtis – I thank her for generously sharing it with artists such as myself.