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A House Concert is a house party with your neighbors, friends or community, where you'll enjoy an intimate music performance by premier musicians in the comfort of your home. House Concerts brings artists into the heart of the community where they can share their musical experience up close in the cozy setting of your home, yard, barn or any setting with neighbors and friends. Socializing with a finger-food potluck and asking people to bring their favorite beverage can be a fun and low-cost way to mingle before the show.

These guidelines provide ideas to create a house concert or workshop with ease and enjoyment.

## **How to Host a House Concert:**

### ***What do I need to know to figure out how to have a great house concert?***

*Invite everybody you'd like to bring together for a night of music. They will love you for it and may even decide they'd like to try hosting a concert!*

1. How many people can you seat? Tailor it to fit your space. I am flexible and want to create a memorable experience that will be fun for you and your guests.
2. Where to "put the stage" - the best corner of the room to play from. Arrange seats in comfortable proximity to the stage area. Throw pillows on the floor and let your guests be comfortable!
3. Decide what kind of refreshments you want to have and what you want to provide and what you want your friends to bring.
4. House concerts are typically presented as adult entertainment. Unless it's a kid's show, encourage babysitters for inquiring parents of young children.
5. Don't publish your name or address in the announcement. Have people contact you through your email or phone to make reservations and then give them directions. It's handy to have directions you can attach to an email to confirm their reservation.
6. There are a few ways to charge admission. Since it's closer to being a private party than a business, you may want to charge a "Suggested Ticket Price" of \$20. This implies a sliding scale so people pay what they can.

7. You can take reservations (recommended) and ask people to send in their check to confirm their reservation (they can make it out to the name of the artist and you can hold the check to pass on to the artist on the day of the show).
8. Put someone you trust in charge as your "doorperson" to admit people to the concert so guests don't forget or don't "notice the basket" and move on in for the evening festivities gratis. Use a money basket with a sign for donations near the entrance.
9. If you are comfortable being the emcee, another way to handle payment is to pass the hat after talking about "the artist is making a living by providing tonight's entertainment. Be generous!". Be confident and cheerful and your audience will respond.
10. If you are passing the hat, time your plug before the intermission and pass the basket after your listeners have had a chance to settle into the enjoyment of the evening. Those who can will give more, those who can't will give what they can. It all works pretty well when the method is clear and in place!

### ***How do I make a House Concert happen?***

1. Think about what you want and then set a date and time with me. Time includes the time doors open and the time of the show. If you are also hosting a workshop, be sure to post it on your information. Give your phone and/or email for people to contact you for reservations.
2. Establish "doors" at least a half hour or an hour before the show starts to provide your guests with time to mingle and socialize.
3. Suggest a dessert potluck or BYOB for social time before the show. You can make this an easy house party with a real concert, time to mingle and creating your own special listening audience. Your role is as host, patron and promoter all in one. Thank you!
4. Make a list of people you would like to invite. Invite more people than you have seats for since only a percentage will be able to say yes and attend. Even if someone can't come, they will be pleased by the invitation and learn about house concerts as a new way to enjoy entertainment with friends.
5. Invite your friends to save the date and tell them about the concert. Evite is one easy way online. A group email is another. I can provide pictures for your invite and links to my music.
6. Make sure that people know that this will be a 'sit down' concert, not background music for your party.
7. Some hosts like to offer both a concert and a workshop in the same day with a potluck in between. You could host a concert on a Friday or Saturday night and then a workshop the next day. Some ideas - 'Voice Jam, *creating your own vocal orchestra*', "Songwriting: 'Putting Your

Life To Music'; and "Joyful Singing - just for the fun of it!" are just a few of the topics I teach. No experience is necessary for any of my workshops. I can tailor my workshops to fit your community and teaching level desired. Let me know what you'd like and I will provide you with a unique, fun and productive group music experience.

8. Hosting a house concert is an easy way to grow your community with music. Your friends will admire you for putting on the event and thank you for opening their horizons. Inviting them to your home to share Professional music in an intimate setting is an active way to promote goodwill. Thank you for supporting my music in this special way. I appreciate the opportunity to perform in your home.

Cheers!

Beth Lawrence