

Awkward Agent[®]

HOUSE CONCERT (JUST FOR FUN)

Some of the best live music experiences these days can be found right in people's homes. If you've never been to a house concert, you don't know what you're missing. Treat your guests to an evening of live music from the comfort of your own home. These small concerts have become a popular alternative to attending shows in typical venues like nightclubs and bars. Your guests will love this intimate experience and the opportunity to mix and mingle with the performers. To find talent, simply visit your local bars and restaurants on nights they feature live entertainment. If you hear someone you like, ask about hiring them for your house concert. It's likely they'll be interested or know someone who is. For food and drink, consider going the potluck route. If you have a theme (like country), ask guests to bring their favorite "down-home" dish. Plan on having drinks on hand for your party-goers. We recommend a self-serve bar featuring an assortment of red and white wine, beer, and non-alcoholic beverages. Hiring a bartender is also a nice touch if your budget permits.

WHO TO INVITE

House concerts are ideal for people who love listening to live music in a cozy setting. Invite your friends, neighbors, and clients. Encourage them to bring a friend too so you can get to know some new folks and grow your database.

TIMING

A house concert can be held anytime of the year. However, if you don't have the space indoors for your group, consider scheduling during the summer and move the party outdoors.

VENUE

House concerts are up-close-and-personal performances that are played live in the living room, den, backyard, or garage of your home. All you need is a space big enough to seat 15-30 people.

AGENDA

Everything runs more smoothly when you have a plan. Consider running your event in the following order.

1. Meet and Greet/Potluck/Icebreaker
2. Introduction of Performer
3. Live Music – First Set (45 minutes)
4. Intermission (20 minutes)
5. Live Music – Second Set (45 minutes)
6. Thank You for Coming

WHAT YOU NEED

Supplies

- Chairs (set up facing musician)
- Tables for food and beverage
- Table (for musician's CDs and merchandise)
- Table coverings
- Paper plates
- Paper bowls
- Paper napkins
- Plastic cups
- Serving utensils
- Serving platters
- Beverage bucket(s)
- Bags of ice
- Bottle opener
- Wine opener
- Stool(s) for musician(s)
- Extension cords
- Song request jar
- Tip jar (if you want guests to tip)
- Trash can
- Recycle bin
- Garbage bags
- Centerpieces for table (fresh flowers or balloons)
- Balloon weights (if you have balloons for decorations)

Also be sure to check out our [Party Planning Checklist](#) to make sure you have all your bases covered.

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- Curling ribbon (for balloons)
- Band signage
- Easel, tape or string (to display/hang signage)
- Sticky notes (see icebreaker)
- Sharpies (see icebreaker)
- Sound system/speaker

Food & Drink

It's not a party without food and drinks. For your House Concert, consider a themed potluck. For example, if you hire a country artist, ask your guests to bring their favorite "down-home" recipe. This type of potluck could feature fried chicken or biscuits and gravy. Here are some popular potluck dishes.

- Party meatballs
- Fried chicken
- Chili
- Pigs in a blanket
- Lasagna
- Baked macaroni & cheese
- 7-Layer Dip
- Fresh mango salsa
- Pasta salad
- Caesar salad
- Broccoli salad
- Pinwheel sandwiches
- Fruit kabobs
- Chocolate chip cookies
- Brownies
- Chocolate cake
- Red wine
- White wine
- Beer
- Soda
- Bottled water
- Seltzer

GOOD VIBES ONLY

Icebreaker

Help your guests get to know each other by playing a game of "Name That Tune." Write the names of popular songs on sticky notes and place them on their backs. Ask them to circulate and ask yes or no questions until they guess the correct name of the song.

Music

It's not a party without music. Fortunately, you'll have plenty of it at this event. Be sure to keep the energy alive and make sure the music doesn't stop by playing your favorite hits when guests are arriving and during intermission.

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HELPFUL TIPS

Get the Word Out

We recommend advertising your event with the following:

- "Save the Date" card
- Invitation
- Email
- Text messages
- Personal phone calls

Collateral

Further promote your personal brand with the following:

- Band sign (with your logo as presenting sponsor)
- Wine labels
- Beer labels
- Water bottle labels
- Thank You cards

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