

The Flea Bitten Dawgs House Concert Guide



House, n.; pl, houses, 1) A building for human beings to live in.....

Concert, n. 1) a performance of vocal or instrument music, usually one in which a number of musicians participate.....

Flea Bitten Dawgs house concert, n. a special evening for you and your friends!

First off let me express our excitement for your interest in hosting a house concert with the Flea Bitten Dawgs! We have found this type of a concert to be the most memorable, intimate, and by far the most fulfilling of all the shows we perform.

This guide will take you through the steps of this experience to help you determine if you'd like to host one of these concerts. Our method is different from many house concerts so we ask that you read the entire manual. **At the end will be a short list of questions we ask to determine if a house concert would work for you and for us.** If after reading this guide and deciding all of the parameters work for you we can set a date for your house concert!

Let's get started!

The House,



The house is a space where people can gather, sit and enjoy a concert. This may be your living room, your backyard, on a patio, a big deck, in a small theater, you may want your concert in an artist studio. *The only requirement of the space is that it will allow the audience to be seated for the entire hour long concert in front of us while we play.*

Seating may be chairs, pillows on the floor, or blanket's on the ground. Whatever will make your guest comfortable!

The before and after concert mingling can spill over into other areas but we do ask that everyone is seated for the concert.

The Date

The Flea Bitten Dawgs plan several tours a year. We head south in the winter, North or to any mountains in the summer, and through the Smoky Mountain with stops on the way during the spring and fall. Tours are scheduled 6 months out and we will consider dates up to the time we hop in the van and go!

We will work hard at making a date work for you. *The reality is that not every day is a weekend but we play every day.* This means there is a 72% chance your concert will happen on what we call a "school night". We've had some of our best shows during the week! There is less competition for your guest's time during the week. Remember this show will be 2 hours from your guest arriving to the end of the concert making this the perfect weekday get together! Thank you for being flexible. There will be more on this further in the guide.

In the questions I have for you at the end of this guide there will be some options concerning when we travel to specific geographic areas. What we look for is when you *cannot* do a concert because of vacation, wedding, a commitment that happens every week, or graduation. It is the locations of the concerts that help us plan our route.

The Guests

To create the best possible scenario for a successful show, we ask that you have *a minimum of 20-30 adults* in attendance.

There are two reasons for this. First, it takes at least 20 people in attendance to have the concert feel like the *exciting event* it should be! Second, with this being a donation-based concert, it will take a minimum of 20 people to make this *financially viable* for us with donations and merchandise sales.



In the past, we have found that you will have to invite twice as many people as you think will come. If you aim for 20, you'll have to invite 40. If you don't think you'll be able to get 20 people to come, you could consider co-hosting with a friend.

If your space can hold more, then please invite away! The more the merrier is what we say! Our concerts may be as small as 20 people however, we have had wonderful

concerts with over 100 folks in attendance. Please feel free to contact us with your ideas as we are open to them!



Adults only,

Our shows have very soft sections of music to create the most intimate concert experience possible. Any distraction can break this mood we work to create with our music. It has been our experience that the guideline for a child to show proper concert etiquette is about 12 years of age.

If you're in doubt, it's best to err on the side of caution. Having someone create a disturbance mid-show can significantly affect the audience's experience, which can in turn significantly affect our income. As much as we love kids (SO MUCH), this is our job.

If you feel you have some kids that would be able to sit quietly through the whole concert without interruption to the event, we'd still need at least 20 *adults* to make this evening viable for us. Please count children in your totals as extras.

Invitations!

Now the fun really starts! You invite a bunch of your friends!

We will send you some precise language that needs to be included in the invitations.

This is a donation-based concert!

The language we will send you to use in the invitation will describe how this is a donation-based concert and that your guest should come prepared to make a donation to the artist at the conclusion of the event.

We do not specify an amount to give. There are two reasons for this:

- 1) We have found we do better financially if we do not ask for a certain amount of donation.
- 2) We don't want to cut out friends who may not be in a position to give very much at this time. While this is the way we make our living, we also want to share our music as much as possible with music lovers!

Other things to consider are either telling your guest you will have food and drink available for them or consider making this a pot luck snack night by asking your guest to bring something to share with the other concert goers. Either way, this is not a requirement.

It is important to ask for an RSVP. We have found this will get folks to a concert better than just telling them to come on by for a show.



The Concert!

This is where our work turns to FUN!

On the day of the show, we will arrive an hour before your guest. We set up our equipment, do a sound check, set up our merchandise table, and go over the details of the show.

One hour before the concert begins we meet and mingle with the music lovers there to see the concert. That hour is the perfect amount of time for getting people excited without having them wait for the show.

A couple of minutes before the concert begins we have the guest find their seats, then you will make the introduction for the show, and we start the magic!

We have found that one hour is right for the length of the concert. It gives your guest a well-produced show without being overly long. It will leave them wanting more!

This is when you, the host, will come up and set the tone for the donation. It is important this is done well and it is fast. Having this model work depends on it. It is not a plea or begging but a carefully worded statement and we will help you with it. It is imperative that the host is on board with this as our living depends on it. We like to think of it as a celebration of the night! In our experience people feel good about this part of the concert, as they feel closer to the musicians by being a part of the community we try to create. When we don't have a donation level set they give to the level they feel the experience brought them!

Here is an example of a donation speech:

We finish our last song and you come up stand next to us and say:

“Thanks so much for coming tonight and sharing in this wonderful experience! I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did! I want to remind you this is a donation-based concert. Your donation will directly benefit the artist and will show them our appreciation for what they have shown us tonight! I will leave this vessel to receive your donation! Please be generous!”

You leave the vessel, we tell the audience “Thank you and we will be at the merchandise table to sign anything you’d like”. We all leave the stage area. That’s it!

A short note on donations, We use this model of a donation-based concert so anybody can host a show for their friends. We find it satisfying to have folks who may not have any experience with a show like this be able to enjoy music in a fashion different than a bar or at a party. It allows a music lover to be totally engaged with the performance!

While this is why we do this type of a show, it is the way we make our living and pay our expenses on the road. Because of this we need our host to be totally on board and enthusiastic with our model.

There is a direct correlation between the enthusiasm and how well we do with the donations. This is why we coach you on the donation speech. It needs to be effortless in its delivery. We find that guests are very receptive and happy to help this experience continue. This time of the concert is full of goodwill and love!

Here is a sample schedule,

This is how we organize one of the best nights you'll have with music. With that in mind, please remember this is a concert, *not a party with music*. We will make this one of the most satisfying musical nights your guest will have!

Let's say you want a 7:30 show,

5:30- We arrive and set up.

6:30- Your guests arrive.

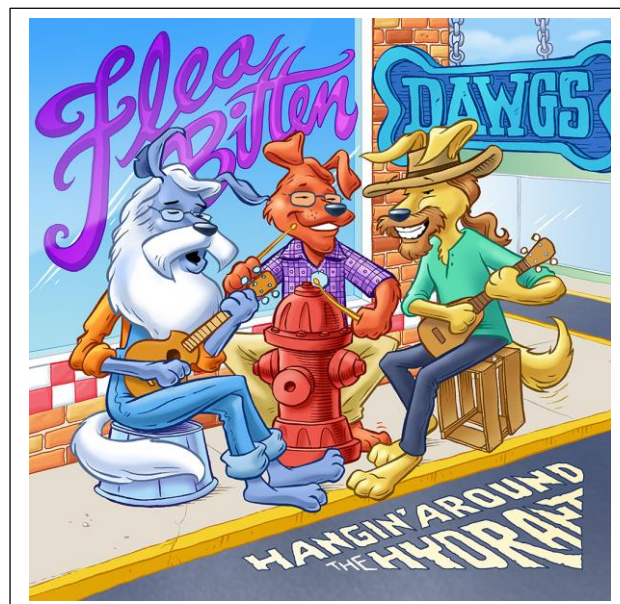
7:25- The guests find their seats.

7:30- The concert begins.

8:30- The concert is over and we can hang out as long as
You'd like.

This gives people plenty of time to get home at a reasonable hour.

That's it..... that's how we do it!



Questions for us to factor you in on a Tour.

Now that you know what a Flea Bitten Dawgs House Concert is, we have some questions for you.

- 1) In what city and state do you live?
- 2) Where would you like to host this concert, living room, outdoors, etc?
- 3) Do you think you will be able to get the 20-30 minimum persons needed for this event? How many do you expect to come?
- 4) In regards to geographic area's we tour, are there any dates you are *unavailable* because of vacations, weddings, reoccurring commitments, etc.
Jan-Feb we tour south and southeast.
April-May and Sept, Oct, Nov we tour east through the Smoky Mountains
June-July we tour north and to the Rocky Mountains
- 5) What is a reliable email address and a phone number?
Remember, communication is key!

After we have all of the info to figure a tour route we will get in touch with you and see if we can book a house concert with you! Thanks so much for taking this interest in our quest to bring a different musical adventure to music lovers!

Hope to see you on the road!

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