

Jamboree Hosting Approach

What We Are Striving For (A Work in Progress)

- **Community Building:** A way for musicians to connect, and learn from one another.
- **All skill levels** are typically welcome, and mistakes are generally tolerated.
- **Improvisation** and **Collaboration**.
- **Relaxed** and **Supportive** and **Fun** environment:
- **Roots Based Music:** Blues, Folk, Country, R&B, Soul, Rock, and more.
- **Unplugged Vibe:** Acoustic instruments preferred, but amplified instrumentalists are welcome **as long as** they play at dynamic levels that blend well with the acoustic instruments.
- **But still, with all that, no Chaos!**

Our Current Plan (Open for Improvements)

Turn Taking

- Musicians have the opportunity to **participate** for the **entire jam**, as long as they **use good judgment** about when and when not to play.
- To ensure **fair** chances for all, **turn-taking** is the key.
 - We will use a **sign-up sheet** listing all who wish to participate.
 - The host will use the list to keep track of whose turn is next.
 - Host will announce each turn. Be gentle with them if they make a mistake!
- For each **turn**, a participant may:
 - **Request** a song (if they cannot lead and accompany themselves).
The request will be **granted only if** someone knows the song well enough to accompany it.
 - **Call** a song **and key** they know well enough to accompany and lead.
 - **Pass** their turn on to the next participant, for any reason. No pressure. Have Fun and Relax!

Playing Along

- As participants play along with the song leader, they should **actively listen** to make good **decisions** about when to play, what style to play, and what dynamic level to play at. (No dueling comping patterns!)
- Participants should demonstrate good **etiquette** (see section below) at all times.
- Host will **moderate** the **Turn Taking** and opportunities for participants to **solo**.
- Host may, at their discretion, **temporarily deviate** from many of these **guidelines** as needed to best facilitate a fun, respectful, and rewarding jam.

Breaks

- There will be **breaks** after the 1st and 2nd sets. **Use this time wisely**, to:
- Get to know each other, give & receive support & mentoring, and just have fun.
- Go get ready for your upcoming turn (instrument in tune, know what songs to call or request, etc.)
- **Limit** such activity **during** the jam, because it is distracting, interrupts the flow, and **reduces the available playing time for all participants**.

Etiquette

- **Be Prepared:** Have songs you can play or sing confidently. Know the lyrics and chord structures. Have your instrument tuned and ready or don't play.
- **Listen Actively:** Pay close attention to the leader and other musicians, adjusting your playing style and volume to blend in. Avoid overpowering singers or soloists.
- **Know When Not to Play:** Don't play the melody over the singer or lead instrument. Quiet down during vocals or instrumental breaks.
- **Don't noodle.** avoid playing extraneous licks or practicing your instrument **between songs**. This is distracting and disrespectful to others.
- **Be Considerate:** If you don't know a song well but wish to play along in order to learn it, play at a low volume to avoid distracting the ensemble.
- **Be Supportive.** The Jamboree is about **collaboration** and **sharing** music, not individual performance. Encourage others and enjoy the experience.
- **Communicate:** Use eye contact, nods, or verbal cues to indicate turns or communicate within the jam.
- **Be Respectful:** Don't Noodle. void playing extraneous licks or practicing your instrument between songs. This is distracting and disrespectful to others.
- Play along with the song leader, joining in on choruses, adding harmonies, or providing instrumental support.
- The host or song leader may choose who takes instrumental solos during the song.
- Everyone who wants a solo turn is usually offered one, with the leader using eye contact or cues to facilitate the process.
- If you don't want a solo, avoid eye contact with the leader or signal them.