

Tracy Morrison House Concerts~ What is a house concert?

Thank YOU for considering hosting a house concert! As a songwriter & storyteller, I believe house concerts are the most engaging and rewarding performances for the audience and the performer. **Music's universal connection stirs emotion, warms the spirit and lifts the mind. These are things I can share with you, your friends & family, by bringing live music to your home!** This is a guide to excite and prepare you for an engaging and intimate evening of live music.

Warmly,



Tracy Morrison

1. The House (Space): The only requirement I have for the concert space is that you have access to an area where friends can gather, and **enjoy a seated, quiet, listening concert experience.** This could be a living room, porch, basement, garage, backyard, art studio, local theatre, library or museum...anything where your friends can gather, and have space to sit for an hour-long concert.

2. The Guests (Friends, Family, Neighbors, Co-workers.....): Invite anyone who you think would enjoy an hour or so of live music in an intimate setting! To create the best atmosphere, **the ideal amount of folks is 20 or more.** In my experience, 20+ people helps to make it feel like an exciting event, and also makes it financially possible for me to play in these settings. The typical turn out is about half of those you invite, so if you're aiming to have 20, invite 40 and so on. If you ask your guests to RSVP via email or phone (facebook event "going" is unreliable) it will give us both a better headcount for setup, AND it dramatically increases the likelihood that people will come and be on-time. So please, **ask your guests to RSVP via email or phone.**

If you're not sure you'll be able to get 20 folks to the event, perhaps you could co-host with a friend who also has a list of people to invite, and thus increase overall attendance.

3. The Invitation (Suggestions):

Please invite your friends! I'm including some suggested language you could include on your invitation. I suggest \$15-\$20 donation amount, but would welcome those who cannot afford it because I hope that anyone who wants to come enjoy the music will attend, regardless of their financial situation, and anyone who can and feels moved to donate, will do so at a level that feels appropriate for them personally. (Please Note: There may be additional travel & accommodation fees for concerts located outside my regular tour schedule).

SAMPLE INVITE:

You are invited to a house concert with singer-songwriter, Tracy Morrison. This will be held at my home on _____.

Tracy will be joining us for an evening of acoustic music and is touring with her latest release "Flower Songs in Sagebrush Town" a collection of original songs inspired by personal adventures and western culture.

"Doing no-frills traditional country is tougher than it sounds. Many times, musicians who try come off as staid, corny, self-important or reclusive. With her indelible melodies, warm voice and spare, winningly plain-spoken lyrics, Pinto Bennett protégé Tracy Morrison gets it just right." Ben Schultz - Boise Weekly

This is a donation-based concert-- please come prepared to make a donation to the artist. Tracy and I hope you will come and enjoy the music, and she will gratefully accept donations at the end of the show. She will also have her CDs available for sale.

Please join us at _____ (time) The concert will begin promptly at _____ (allow an hour of mingle time). [Let your guests know if you'd like them to bring anything-- a snack or drink to share?]

RSVP by email is required. Thank you so much!

Other invitation items:

You may want to let the guests know if you have drinks and snacks for them if that will be the case, or perhaps you'd like to ask each person to bring a little something to share. This is entirely up to you and **not** a requirement of hosting! Let them know in the invitation what to expect.

4. The Concert (Experience)! Guests will arrive at the time you and I have decided together. This can be in the evening, or afternoon! As guests arrive, we'll all hang out and mingle for about an hour. Then, after an hour of pre-concert hanging out, everyone gathers in the performance space, finds their seat, and the host (that's you!) gives a brief introduction and welcome...something like this:

- *"Welcome everyone! Thank you so much for coming. Tracy Morrison is an Idaho based folksinger & songwriter. Growing up in a musical community, Tracy has been making music for over 30 years. She has published three full length albums of original music capturing critical acclaim and widespread radio play. Tracy served as a Speaker for Idaho Humanities Council, sharing "songs & stories" programs throughout Idaho. We're thrilled to have her with us this evening, please join me in welcoming Tracy Morrison!"*

And then you sit back, relax, and I play for an hour!

As soon as I've played the last note, the host gets up to thank folks for coming and to make a **donation announcement** that can be some version of this:

- *“Thank you all for being here tonight. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. I want to remind you that this is a donation-based concert. Your donations tonight will all directly benefit our artist and show her appreciation for this experience she has shared with us tonight. I am going to leave this donation box (bowl? Jar? Vase? Hat?) right here and encourage you to give generously. Thank you again!”*

A note about donations: It's important to me almost anyone can host a house concert and put on a unique live music experience in their home for their friends-- and I am able to do this by making the shows donation-based. **Since the donations are how I make my living and pay all of my expenses while I'm on tour, it's really important that I have the host's full enthusiasm behind this aspect of the concert.** I will happily help you come up with a “thank you for coming, you can donate here” little script (see above!), because I want you to feel comfortable with this. In the end, I've found that guests are very receptive and grateful to have been a part of this experience, and are happy to support this unique and memorable experience.

Some hosts prefer to offer this concert experience for their guests without asking their guests for donations. In this case, I charge a “guarantee” where the host pays me directly. If that is something you are interested in, the “guarantee” price for a house concert is \$400
Right after you thank folks for coming, generally I sign CDs and hang out and folks continue to mingle for a bit!

5. The Goal

Creating and sharing music has brought my life so much happiness and I love to share it with other people. These concerts are a unique way to gather friends, create memories and develop meaningful connections with your community. I can't wait! Thanks again.