

SONGMAKERS

Welcome to Songmakers Hoots and our Homemade Music.

Hoot GUESTS Guidelines

- 1) If you don't own the property, you are a guest. Please treat the facility (home, hall, campground) with respect.
- 2) Entering & Leaving: Try to arrive before the hoot begins. Do not enter or leave the room during a performance. If you need to prepare food/refreshments before the break, please be courteous to the others remaining and, quietly attend to the task. Refreshments should not be eaten before the break. **Alcohol may not be consumed by participants during a hoot.**
- 3) Make sure your instrument is in tune before the hoot begins. If you need a tuner, see the host(s) or hoot leader.
- 4) Think about what you want to play/sing and make any preparations before your turn comes around. If you are not ready, simply ask the hoot leader to come back to you.
- 5) Assume the performance is a SOLO and don't sing or play unless invited.
- 6) As the performer, it is your responsibility to inform the group whether the performance is solo or sing-along, and what sort of accompaniment you would like.
- 7) If you are doing a GROUP song, announce the name of the song, and the key. If you're singing a song from "Rise Up Singing," provide the page number. However, if your version is different from that in this book, let the group know. We tend to encourage group participation. If you do more than one song, consider one for a sing-along.
- 8) If you've chosen a song with many verses/choruses, be selective of them so your presentation is approximately in time to most other songs, 3-4 minutes.
- 9) The PERFORMER is the STAR - even in group songs. If you cannot hear the performer, YOU are too loud. No takeovers, please. Accompaniment should be the "icing," never the "cake."
- 10) Be sensitive to the type/style of the song performed. The volume and sound of your vocal or instrumental accompaniment might or might not contribute well to the song being performed. LISTEN.
- 11) If you want to promote a performance, product or service, please do so during the announcement period, just before the break.
- 12) Make sure your humor or comments are not at another's expense. If you have difficulty diplomatically addressing someone "making" you uncomfortable, quietly bring the problem to the attention of the Hoot Leader(s) &/or Host(s).
- 13) If the refreshments are not potluck, please remember to feed the "Kitty." Express your appreciation to your hosts and leaders, they share their homes and skills with us and enable our hoots to happen.

A note to Hoot GUESTS:
Regarding Guideline #8...
Singing every verse & bridge and adding the chorus & a break after every verse make it challenging, if not painful to sit through. A shortened rendition would be 'welcome'.

Some suggested solutions:

- 1) **At your turn, let folks know that you'd like to sing this long song AND this will count as 2 or ALL of your turns for the evening.**
- 2) **Remember the basic 3, maybe 4 minute general song length; eliminate several choruses; plan ahead where you'll keep them; and time your song.**
- 3) **Be selective of the verses you present, and time your song.**
- 4) **Let folks know that, since this is a long song, you'll present half of it this turn AND the rest of it next turn or even the next Hoot. Leave Folks in suspense!**
- 5) **Try to be familiar enough with your presentation, that you can also be somewhat aware of the receptivity – energy – or state of your audience; are they with you or have they left the room – if not physically, then psychically.**

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Dear Songmakers,

Every once in a while we need to remind ourselves that, like traffic rules, our Hoot Guidelines were created to enable us to fairly and efficaciously wend our way, and help make the trip as enjoyable as possible for all of us.

The nature of Songmakers has always been to promote and support all forms of music. Let's try to keep censorship and Songmakers as far apart as possible. Songmakers should practice tolerance and show respect to fellow members and guests at all times.

If anyone has difficulty diplomatically addressing someone who is "making" you uncomfortable, please quietly bring the problem to the attention of the Hoot Leader and/or Hoot Host.

Musically,

The Songmakers Board of Directors

A note to our Hoot HOSTS: A copy of both our Guest's and Leader's Guidelines should be present at each hoot.

If, for any reason, you need more laminated copies for your hoot, please contact Hoot Liaison, Audrey Goodman, Audrey.Goodman@Songmakers.org.

LEADERS/HOSTS have the discretion to read all or some of the guidelines to attendees whenever deemed helpful.

Hoot LEADERS Guidelines

- 1) If you don't own the property, you are a guest. Please treat the facility (home, hall, campground) with respect.
- 2) Check with the host(s) re: their desire for guests to help neaten up at the hoot's end.
- 3) Please make sure that your instruments are in tune. Try to have a tuner available. Direct guests to do major tuning away from the hoot room.
- 4) Be aware of the GUEST'S Guidelines in order to support their intent to keep a harmonious atmosphere and try to avoid any "sour notes" in attitude or behavior.
- 5) Ask for announcements at the beginning of the break, before folks start leaving for refreshments.
- 6) Try to keep some balance of solos and group songs; if you detect a lag in interest or energy add a sing-along.
- 7) Let people know when their turn is coming up 2 or 3 songs in advance.
- 8) Assume that a performance is a SOLO unless the performer indicates otherwise.
- 9) If it is a group song, the PERFORMER is the STAR. If the performer, including the "break player," cannot be heard, accompaniment is too loud. Accompaniment should be the "icing," not the "cake."
- 10) Eliminate *distractions* during performances and keep conversations between performances to a minimum. This includes those who leave the performance area before the break to help set up or to heat up food. No one should start eating refreshments before the break.
- 11) At evening's end, remind folks to thank the host(s), and help put away things that the hosts may designate.

Revised 9/20/2011; please discard previous copies