

Open Mic Etiquette

- Please plan to stay for the whole show. If you want folks to listen to you, you should reciprocate. Play and run is like eat and run – almost always rude.
- Be supportive of the other performers. If you enjoy their sets, let them know.
- **Be prepared.** The audience isn't there to listen to you practice; or to wait for you to decide what song to perform; or to wait for you to find your song on your phone.
- **Get out your instrument and tune it before your turn.** Don't keep the audience waiting while you tune, even if you are the rare musician who can tell jokes while tuning.
- When introducing your song, don't let the introduction grow into a five-minute monologue. The audience we want to play for is there to listen to the music, more than listening to someone talk about the music.
- If your instrument or tuner needs a battery to operate, make sure that you have fresh batteries installed before you get on the stage. On stage equipment failures are a fine way to deliver the message "I am an amateur and proud of it".
- It is okay to promote yourself by telling the audience that you have an upcoming gig, but don't take up your limited stage time recalling wild successes. Let's assume that the audience we want to play for are there because they want to hear music. Do bring flyers for upcoming gigs that you can hand out.
- If you want to bring merch, you can tell the audience about what's available, but handle the sales yourself. If this exposure helps you make money on merch, please consider dropping a donation in the HTMA jar so it works both ways.