

# BEAUTIFUL SMALL MACHINES | BREE SHARP & DON DILEGO

## OFFICIAL HOUSE CONCERT HOSTING GUIDE



"Acoustic Music, Live From the Living Room -- These days, the best seat in the house may really be in the house." - Neil Strauss of the NEW YORK TIMES

"Thanks again for the spectacular performance!-- we had a marvelous time and our guests can't stop raving about it either!" - Dave & Shana R. – NEW HAVEN, CT

"I am delighted Bree Sharp is coming to visit Ireland do do a private show. Little does she know that her music has touched the hearts of many people here in Roscommon of all places. We are expecting a great turn out when she comes to play in Sligo and we're sure this is the first of many Irish Tours yet to come!" -Dave B - SLIGO, IRELAND

**House Concerts** are a great way to share your favorite musical artist with friends, family, neighbors and colleagues in a way that clubs in town can't. It's a chance to experience live music in the intimate environment of your home, free from the distractions of loud music systems, smoky air, and overcrowding.

### SO WHAT'S THE SKINNY?

You invite friends, family, neighbors, colleagues and the like to your home for an intimate social gathering featuring a musical performance. *It is important that everyone knows that this is about the uniqueness of the in-home performance, and not just a party that happens to have musicians. Trust us, it makes a difference!*

### THE BASICS

**Refreshments:** You can provide light snacks for your guests or suggest that everyone bring something. The more involved they are, the more fun they have! If you want to have a potluck supper, be sure to have it before the show, as intermission won't be long enough for a full meal.

**Times:** A typical start time for a Friday or Saturday event is 8:00PM. Earlier shows often work better on weekdays and Sundays. Guests should begin arriving about 30 minutes before the show is scheduled to begin, earlier if you plan to have dinner and/or drinks.

Your awesome evening will consist of, loosely, two sets: DON DILEGO (Bree's long-time collaborator/producer/guitarist and singer-songwriter) opening with a 30min set, and then BREE SHARP with a 1-hour set, which will include songs from their band BEAUTIFUL SMALL MACHINES. There is usually a 10-20 minute intermission in between sets for bathroom breaks, drink refills, etc, and there will be time after the show to purchase cds and t-shirts. We will happily and humbly sign any and all items!

### WHERE TO START | A Rough Guideline

**4 Weeks Out:** It's a good idea to begin contacting people you would like to invite at least 1 month prior to the event. Send your invitations via email or the post, or phone them directly. It's important to have your invitees RSVP, as seating is limited and the arrangement of the room will depend on how many guests are expected.

**\*\*We ask that there be a MINIMUM of 20-25 guests to make for the best possible experience.**

**2 Weeks Out:** Now is the time to call or email any one who has not responded yet or who is still a "maybe". It's also a good time to confirm with all of your "yes's" and remind them to let you know ASAP if their plans change so you can have others fill their space.

**3 Days Out:** Begin making preparations for refreshments and seating arrangements. Contact people with driving and parking directions (if applicable). **\*\*Please leave a parking space close to the entrance of your home for Bree and Don to make loading and unloading easier. Thank You!**

### SETTING THE STAGE

Not much is required as the show will be acoustic. (Unless you are interested in an outdoor performance, which may require a small PA System at an additional expense) These guidelines might help:

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**Where:** While any place can work, house concerts are usually held in a living room or dining room. The performance area should be a few feet in front of a wall and allow enough space for Bree and Don to sit or stand a few feet apart from each other. Typically 6 feet wide will work. **\*\*Bree and Don prefer to sit on bar stools or high, armless chairs.**

**Lighting:** Although not imperative, lighting can set the perfect mood for the show. Ideally the lights should be dim over the audience and behind the artists' performance areas. (*Candles are always a nice touch...*)

**Seating:** Arrange seats to allow an aisle or path for easy access to seats from the entrance, bathroom, and food area with as little disruption to the performance as possible. A random assortment of household furniture is fine for seating, although fold out chairs are most space-efficient (If you need extra they can be rented for very little money at your local equipment store.) Depending on your guests, pillows on the floor in front are also a cozy option.

**CD/MERCH Display Area:** Merchandise and mailing list are key for the performers, so it's important to set up a table (a card table or large coffee table will do) for displaying both in an easily accessible high-traffic area (i.e. on the way to the food and drink!)

### ARTIST COMPENSATION

**The artists (us!) need to make a MINIMUM of \$800 per house concert.** There are two common methods of compensating the artist that seem to work well for everyone, and these are for you to decide which works best:

1) **Suggested Donation:** Some hosts compensate the artists by asking their guests for a suggested donation. Ticket prices should fall in the range of \$15-\$20. The minimum suggested donation assures that the artist's minimum will be covered, while allowing for your guests to give more or less based on what they feel they are getting from the evening. A good way to do this is to ask guests to compare the event to dinner and a show and ask them to contribute accordingly. This method also insures the event is paid for by all involved. **\*\* It is important to let your guests know what your suggestion for a donation is ahead of time so that they arrive prepared. \*\***

1) **Direct Payment:** Many hosts choose to compensate the artist directly. They treat the evening as a "special event" party for their friends. Or if a host is uncomfortable asking their guests to make a donation, some choose this route. Perhaps the easiest and less labor-involved method, this seems to work for folks who view this as "their event" that they are sharing as a sort of "gift" to friends.

### SHOWTIME

**5 minutes before:** Begin asking people to take their seats 5 minutes before the show is to begin.

**Welcome and Introduction:** Once everyone is seated, it's time to welcome them, tell them a bit about the event and a word or two about Bree and Don and their music. A few key points to cover are:

- 1) Quiet Please: Let people know that as the show will be acoustic it is important for them not to talk during the performance.
- 2) Bathroom: Ask your guests to use the facilities before the show if possible, as getting up during the performance will be disruptive.
- 3) Cell Phones: Especially important, and though it is rare when it happens, this will save your guest some unwanted and possibly untimely attention.
- 3) Intermission (if applicable): Explain that there will be a short intermission during which they can meet Bree and Don, purchase CD's and have them signed, join the mailing list and catch up with each other.
- 4) Donation: It's helpful to explain that the artist's only compensation for traveling to your home and performing for them that night will be their donations and profits from CD sales.

**5 minutes before 2nd set:** Sometimes re-seating the crowd after intermission isn't as easy as you might hope. Hopefully because everyone's having such a great time! So don't feel bad about announcing that intermission is over. Once all of your guests are seated, thank them again for coming, remind them that at the end of the show there will be another opportunity to socialize and have CD's signed, and re-introduce Bree and Don for the final set of the evening.

### THANK YOU!

We hope this helps you plan and gets you as excited about your House Concert as we are. Please be mindful of our minimum requirements, as our tour cannot function unless they are met. We try very hard to keep these concerts at a fair price for both you and us so we can keep these special shows happening. In all honesty, thus far we have been incredibly fortunate, and have loved each and every one. Our hosts and their guests have always been friendly and polite and very positive. We thank you so much in advance for your support.

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Please feel free to contact us with any and all questions. We really appreciate your efforts in making this happen, and look forward to rocking it out living-room-stylee!

**x. bree & donnie d**

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\* You can visit us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/beautifulsmallmachines) and feel free to set up an event page for your concert.

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