

## Tips for Hosting Conspirare Artists

A wonderful way to support the arts is by hosting musicians traveling to Austin to perform in Conspirare concerts. Musicians typically have long days filled with music-making, blocking, photo shoots, and appearances. As a Conspirare Artist Host, you can make a visiting musician's stay comfortable, easy, and supportive with planning and care. Here are ten recommendations for making a visiting musicians' stays a success:



- 1. Provide artists with a private bedroom and a set of keys.** Rehearsal schedules can be quite busy and unpredictable, and Hosts typically have busy schedules as well. A private bedroom and set of keys sets visiting artists up with needed rest and a pleasant stay.
- 2. Prepare your guests' rooms.** A clean, attractive space with fresh bedding provides the foundation for a great stay. An uncluttered bedroom with natural light works well, and a nightstand, desk and chair, lamps, and a closet with hangers ensures your guests' comfort.
- 3. Create a Welcome Guide.** An attractive page with helpful information will be much appreciated by your guests. The Wi-Fi password, parks, running trails, nearby grocery and pharmacy locations, and interesting info about your home and neighborhood are great to add.
- 4. Ask in advance.** Guests may have sensitivities to or preferences for food or other aspects of their environment. Some hosts like to provide a humidifier, a fan, or a range of pillows from which their guests can choose.
- 5. Stock up on staples.** Snacks, teas, coffee, and cough drops can be welcome additions to your guests' stay. Sparkling water, preserves, honey, nut butters, etc. can be great late-night finds. A small, simple cache of snacks is often a great touch.
- 6. Be flexible with meals.** Feel free to invite your guest to dine with you. It may not work out, but a simple "if you'd like to join us for dinner, we'll add an extra plate" is welcoming and low key. Make it easy for guests to accept, decline, or make plans later.
- 7. Consider other small touches.** Provide a blow dryer, steamer, iron, lint rollers, and plenty of hangers in the closet. These items help artists get their garments and themselves ready for the stage.

8. **First-aid and toiletries.** Basics that guests find useful include: nail clippers, band-aids, cotton balls & swabs, safety pins, toothbrush, toothpaste, makeup wipes, soap, shampoo, and conditioner.
9. **Strike a balance.** Traveling and performing are demanding. At the same time, your guests appreciate you and your hospitality. Be friendly while also giving your guests their privacy.
10. **Invite them to sign your guest book.** Many musicians know each other and are happy to learn that their friends and colleagues were previous guests. A simple, fun touch like a guest book contributes to connection and community.

**Ready to host Conspirare artists?** Contact Meri Krueger, Artist Relations, at:  
[mkrueger@conspirare.org](mailto:mkrueger@conspirare.org)