

Guidelines & Courtesies

Charlotte Blues Society Open Blues Jams

Blues Jam Guidelines

You are participating in a tradition that is over 26 years in the making. The Charlotte Blues Society has consistently promoted a Blues Jam as part of its Blues Sunday. The Charlotte Blues Society's Blues Sunday occurs on the first Sunday of each month. The Blues Jams do not happen at every Blues Sunday. Always refer to CharlotteBluesSociety.org for details and schedules.

We hope your experience will be inspiring and that your own musical abilities will be informed by these jams.

We offer the following guidelines to consider when signing on as a participating jammer:

- 1) A practical suggestion, *sign up early*. On the sign-up sheet please list your instrument and/or ability that you wish to contribute to the Jam. While the Blues has a lot of variations, please be advised this is a Blues Jam. Please keep it real ladies and gentlemen.
- 2) Be respectful of any equipment that you use, backline and PA, treat it as your own or possibly better than your own. If you have a special amp, pedal or set-up that you need to use, remember guideline #1; Come early.
- 3) Keep track of your place on the sign-up sheet. It is not up to the Jam Master to track you down when your time to shine arrives.
- 4) Please be advised that you need to be tuned and ready BEFORE you get on stage. Additionally, if you are a guitarist that tunes down a half step, please note the House band will be tuned to standard 440. Two choices remain, either tune to 440 or make allowances in your choice of a chord voicing.
- 5) If you only hear yourself on stage, perhaps you are too loud. Likewise, if you hear everyone else, but not yourself; turn up.
- 6) Be respectful of your fellow musicians, no matter what their ability may be. Everyone usually starts at the same place.
- 7) In regards to soloing, again please be respectful of other musicians in the jam. For example, rhythm guitar is not just something to waste your time on while you wait for your next solo. One of the lessons of a Blues Jam is to learn how to be as apt an accompanist as you hope to be as a soloist. The Jam Master will be generous with solos, but be mindful of other musicians that may be waiting to jam.
- 8) Lastly, have fun. Also respect the traditions as well as the innovations of the Blues. Likewise, respect the Charlotte Blues Society and The Neighborhood Theatre for providing the space and equipment for you to jam.