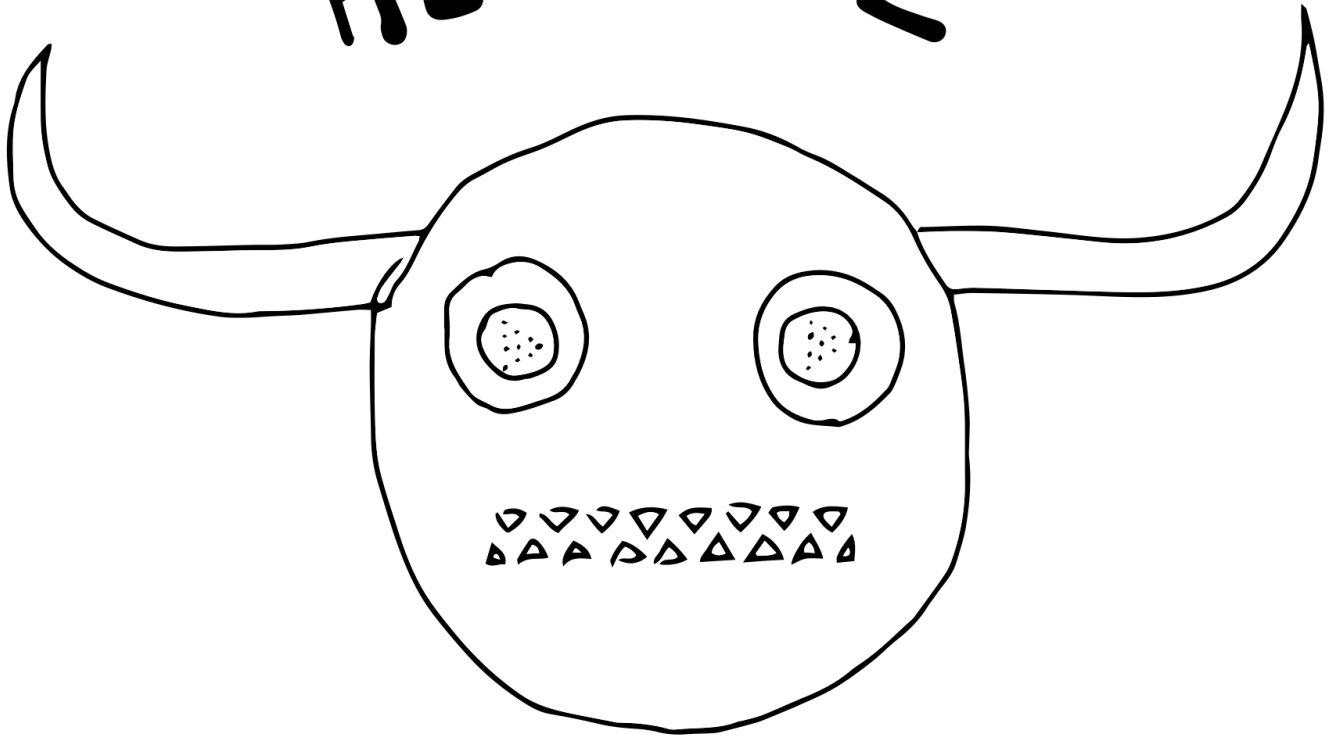


HERE BE



MONSTERS

HERE BE MONSTERS 2026
Production Information Guide
(PIG)

Welcome to the introductory note to the Production Information Guide (PIG) for Here Be Monsters 2026.

This document primarily exists to streamline the processes involved in creating the year-end shows. It is also intended to provide a single, comprehensive place for you to find answers to any questions you might have as we go along in the yearly cycle. This document is your first-stop resource for questions, so please bookmark this link and plan to make consulting the PIG a habit!

We are beyond thrilled to act as facilitators for our amazing community and all the scenes within it! Here's to an incredible fourth year of Here Be Monsters!

Michael Zapruder and Chris Prosser
Co-Directors
Tetractys New Music

Table of Contents

[The Basics](#)

What is Here Be Monsters?

Concept

Goals

Values and Mission

Ethos

Past Shows (photos and info - link coming soon)

What is Indie-Classical Music?

Who are the Organizers?

Tetractys New Music Co-Directors

Project Leads

What is a Project Lead

Commitments to Timely Communication and Meeting

WhatsApp Community

Sending Group/Org Information and Performance Information

(Program Notes, Scores, Performers, Duration, Stage Plots and Input Lists)

Sending Production Technical Requests

Start with the PIG!

Festival Participation Basics

Festival Facts

Duration

Dates

Venue

Sets

Ways to Participate

Commissioning + Performing

Performing

Supporting

Applying to participate

Confirming Your Participation

IMPORTANT: HOLD BOTH DATES!

Communication

Contact info for TNM / HBM Facilitators

Tetractys New Music

Individual Facilitators

Expectations and Process Things

Read the PIG

Check the FAQ

Hangouts

Application and Uploads

Application form and Materials

Naming Your Uploads!

Required Application Materials

Group Profile, Project Lead Information, Mission, Leadership, Contact Information, Social Media Links

Groups and Responsibilities/Expectations/Ways to Help

Promotion and Support

Volunteering

HBM26 Calendars

Milestones and Deadlines

Timeline (to be updated)

Your Commissioning Calendar

Your Performing Calendar

THE BIG CALENDAR

Hangouts

Money

Commissioning + Performing Fees

Performance Only Fee

Payment Calendar and Conditions

[Contracts](#)

Receive a sample contract

[Media and Documentation](#)

Recordings

Videos

Rights to Use and Timing

Ownership

[Community Things](#)

Here Be Monsters is a METHOD

Here Be Monsters is an OPPORTUNITY

Putting people in touch

Music is PEOPLE

[Policies](#)

Applications

Selecting Participants if Necessary

Video and Audio sharing

Improvised pieces and Commissioning

Communication about show logistics

Musicians in multiple groups

[FAQ](#)

[Logistics: Details](#)

Venue Information & Resources

Seating

Food & Drink

Stages

Radio East Technical Resources

Stage Plots and Input Lists

Committing to your instrumentation (no last minute changes)

Instrumentation conversations and possible parameters

Sound checks

Day of Show

The Basics

What is Here Be Monsters?

(CONCEPT) Here Be Monsters is envisioned as a community process ending in a public music festival. It is a kind of nursery or greenhouse in which creativity is valued and encouraged and participants enjoy opportunities to come together and learn, grow, improve and make the best work possible. These ideas are rooted in the concept that when artists come together/collaborate, the work improves, energy builds, and amazing things happen.

The Here Be Monsters festival is designed so that participating organizations have maximum freedom – within the festival parameters – to express themselves and share their vision and identity. Within the overall space of the festival, each individual organization is free to use its time and space however it sees fit (provided it does not conflict with our basic community standards).

(GOALS) Here Be Monsters is a musical festival created with two main goals in mind: first, to foster a stronger and more self-aware new music community in Austin; and second, to project that identity (or those identities) to audiences in Austin, Central Texas, the USA, and the world. Also, while each yearly cycle of Here Be Monsters culminates in the concert and festival, this is also designed to be a *process* that brings us together to enrich our creative work and lives. The results of these community-artistic processes are arguably more important than the shows themselves, since these ongoing inspirations can be the source of new works, collaborations, breakthroughs, and yes, fun and joy!

(VALUES / MISSION) We value Austin's beautiful, unique, free and generous qualities and see our role as one in which we create and protect a space in which our community, and the scenes within it, can grow and thrive. Secondly, we see ourselves as facilitators for encouraging conversations, questions, notions, all in the service of discovering our community's musical identities and values. We want to help us all engage with the questions: Who are we? Who do we want to be? What makes our music community and the scenes within it unique?

(ETHOS: Appropriate Growth) This is the fourth year of Here Be Monsters. Our ethos might be described as Appropriate Growth, which is to say that we do not fear being small, we do not want to pursue growth of the festival as our first priority. Instead - and this has always been the case - we want to prioritize the *growing* of our community, our connections, our work. We believe that if we put our energy and intentions in that direction, then the programs we put on our stages at the festivals will be more compelling than just simply being two days of excellent music. That's great, but we want to build energy in our musical community so that the excellent music exists in a kind of energy-conserving, creativity enhancing context.

(PICTURES / VIDEOS) Finally, pictures and videos are worth more than words, so here is the link to our YouTube channel where you can see and hear what the show is like:

<https://www.youtube.com/@tetractysnewmusic>

Who are the Organizers?

(Tetractys New Music Co-Directors) The organizers of Here Be Monsters 2026 are Michael Zapruder and Chris Prosser, co-directors of Tetractys New Music, which is the presenting organization.

Project Leads & Their Responsibilities

For HBM26, each participating organization will select a **Project Lead (PL)**. This person will serve as the primary contact between TNM and the organization, and should take pride and joy in timely communications, attending necessary meetings, making sure contracts are signed, deadlines are met, and generally being available and responsive. All PLs will be added to a group Project Leads text thread, and commit to be available by text separately. Timely communication is punk rock! PLs will also be responsible for delivering all necessary information (biographical and mission-related text about your organization, organization leadership information, performance information such as titles, program notes, performers, stage plots and input lists, scores, correctly sized social media assets for specific social media outlets, and so on). Closer to the show date, PLs will be the direct contacts with TNM about show details.

A process note for all PLs: **please check the PIG before you send in questions!** That will make our lives easier and it will also help us fill in any gaps in the information we are providing. We will add your questions to the FAQ as you send them in.

What is Indie-Classical Music?

We define indie-classical music as music that draws from classical techniques, notations and traditions, while incorporating more contemporary genres, styles, or performance methods. This is an intentionally fuzzy definition, as indie-classical music is also characterized by invention, creativity, and newness.

Communication Channel for 2026: WhatsApp Community

Each year we have had various communications channels for Project Leads and organizers, with two basic functions these channels are designed to serve:

1. Practical and logistical communications about the shows and other events, and
2. To fulfill the mission of the Here Be Monsters project as an ongoing catalyst for more meaning, more music, and deeper connections - musical, social and otherwise - in our community.
 - a. This second part means that in addition to receiving and sharing information and questions about specific events in the Here Be Monsters calendar, we very much want to facilitate all manner of ad hoc, informal, non-HBM communications, including show announcements, invitations to people to hang out, go to a show or other event etc etc.

This cycle, we will be setting up a WhatsApp Community, within which we will be able to send announcements about important events, deadlines, and so on, and you all will be able to self-organize and communicate freely in groups. More info here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/495856382464992>.

We are looking into the possibility of including all Here Be Monsters participants, not just those who will be performing this coming year, in the WhatsApp community.

More details to come soon.

HBM 26 Festival Participation Basics

Festival Facts

Show Dates: **Saturday May 23rd and Sunday May 24th, 2026**

Show Duration: Five-hour shows each day. Doors at 6pm, music from 6:30pm – 12am

Venue: Radio East – 3504 Montopolis Drive, Austin

Stages: Two stages

Set Lengths: 15 minutes of music (20 minutes total stage time)

Number of Performing Organizations: 20

Ways to Participate

There are three main ways to participate in HBM26. Ten groups will participate as Commissioning + Performing Groups, and ten will participate as Performing Groups. Additionally, if a group or organization does not wish to

perform, there are possibilities to participate as a Supporting Group. Please let us know if you are interested in applying as a Supporting Group.

Applying

All interested groups will receive a link to complete an application to participate. There is no fee to apply. All applicants should be music ensembles/artists based in Austin or in/around central Texas, and all works performed at HBM must be written by living composers. A list of the required items for the application is below. Additionally, we will ask for some information – however provisional – about your proposed performance. What is the scope of the instrumentation and what are you hoping to do? And if you are commissioning a new work, who are you hoping to work with and what is your vision?

The deadline to apply for Here Be Monsters 2025 is **Wednesday, October 15, 2025 by 11:59pm.**

Link to the Application: <https://forms.gle/wzQoaqUHJ3asV3hJA>

Confirming Participation

Application decisions will be made by the TNM co-directors and notifications will be sent out via email by **October 31, 2025**. In your acceptance email, you will be asked to confirm your participation in the concert by **November 7, 2025**.

IMPORTANT: HOLD MAY 23 and 24, 2026

Your commitment to participate includes a commitment to be available and flexible about your day and time of performing. **This is very important.** Our goal will be to confirm show days/times by March 2026, but this is not always possible. Moving groups around to accommodate scheduling requests is not only very complex, but it prevents us from creating balanced programs that show each group in the best light. If you have a calendar limitation you know about already, please let us know and we may be able to build that into the show.

Communication

Contact info for TNM / HBM Organizers:

- Tetractys New Music General Contact:
tetractysnewmusic@gmail.com
- Michael Zapruder: michael@tetractysnewmusic.com (510) 306-7171
- Chris Prosser: cskinnerprosser@gmail.com (225) 773-4778

Expectations and Process Things

Expect timely communication from us (but please also remember that we have other commitments and jobs). Our goal will be to reply to any message within 24 hours.

If you have questions about anything, source **the PIG first – including the FAQ**. If you can't find it in the FAQ, we welcome the feedback – let us know and we will add an update.

In return, we ask for timely communication. In a perfect world, it'd be awesome to have replies to HBM messages within 24 hours, if only to let us know you've received the message and that you're working on it. Any details or timelines you can provide are welcomed and appreciated.

Required Materials for Application

- *Project Lead Contact Information*
 - *Name and title*
 - *mobile phone*
 - *Email*
- *Organization/Group Short Description, Blurb, Promotional Text*
- *Organization Leadership*
- *Social Media Links*
- *Website URL*
- *Proposal for your performance and/or commission at HBM26*

Required Financial Docs

If you are performing at HBM26, you will be required to provide the following forms:

1. A Direct Deposit form

2. A current W-9 (You will receive an email from us (through Quickbooks) with a link where you can fill out the form).

These should be updated even if you participated last year.

Groups and Responsibilities/Expectations/Ways to Help

Spreading the Word

One of the most amazing things about Here Be Monsters is how it has consistently exceeded all of our expectations. We think that's because of our collective power to communicate a message to a large group of people. In terms of the year-end shows, one of the most important secondary functions each group can provide is to help **amplify and promote the show**. This includes sharing social media posts, appeals to your mailing lists, sharing press contacts or reaching out to them yourself (this is something we encourage, if your group can get press around the show, we all benefit, just please keep us informed about that kind of thing), and so on.

Volunteering

There will also be opportunities – and possibly requests – for some volunteer help, especially on the day of the show. This could include doing a shift at the merch table or taking tickets at the door, or anything else.

Showing Up

Finally, the more we each participate in each others' events, the more we show up for each other and just get together, the more AWESOMENESS will result; so please consider the non-concert events, especially the hangouts, as important events and big opportunities for incredible things to happen. Think of it like watering a plant, you can't just do it once a year and expect it to grow!

HBM26 Calendar

This section is where all the important milestones, deadlines, meetings (official and informal) and show-related dates will be posted. This section will be updated with details as needed. We will announce any major changes or updates as they come up.

Milestones and Deadlines:

- Application deadline is **OCTOBER 15, 2025**
- Notification Date is **OCTOBER 31, 2025**
- Confirming Participation Deadline is **NOVEMBER 7, 2025**
- Contracts will be sent **upon receipt of confirmation of participation**
- Signed Contracts due by **NOVEMBER 15, 2025**
- Winter Meetings
 - General Updates and Check-in (all-hands meeting) **11am-1pm, JANUARY 24, 2026**
 - “What’s Cooking check-ins (short meetings with smaller groups of orgs to learn about your plans for your set) - **TBD**
- Delivery of STAGE PLOTS / INPUT LISTS Performance Technical Specs - **MARCH 16, 2026**
 - <https://www.bossradioatx.com/stage-plot-designer/>
- Delivering Score (if commissioning) deadline is **Monday, MARCH 23, 2026 by 11:59PM**
- Uploading Production and Program Information deadline is **APRIL 15, 2026**

Hangouts

We will be organizing monthly hangouts one Saturday of each month starting in October. These are usually from 3-5pm, but stay tuned!

We will create a HBM26 Google Calendar to share these dates and other important milestones and deadlines with you all, as well.

Provisional Hangout dates:

- 9/27/25
- 10/25/25
- 11/22/25
- 1/24/26 11am-1pm (an in-person all-hands meeting at KMFA)
- 2/28/26
- 3/28/26
- 4/25/26

Money

Commissions and Performance Fees

Payments for commissions will be \$1000 per piece.

Payments for performances will be \$750 per organization (up from \$500 last year). Please note that it is our goal to increase performance payments every year.

Organizations that are commissioning a piece will receive a total of \$1750 (commission fee + performance fee).

Payment

For commissions, the fee will be split in half, with \$500 paid to your organization upon receipt of all initial documents and a signed contract. The

second commission payment of \$500 will be sent after the commissioned score is submitted to Tetractys New Music in March 2026. The performance fee of \$750 will be sent just after the festival in May/June 2026.

Note that all HBM26 payments will be sent **via direct deposit**.

Other details and requirements of the payments will be outlined in the contract.

Contracts

Contracts will be sent to all confirmed organizations in early November. We are happy to provide a copy to you if you'd like to see it before you confirm.

Media and Documentation

Tetractys New Music will record audio and video of all HBM26 performances, and Tetractys New Music will own those specific recordings for use in promotion and fundraising. Note also that the audio recordings from the show are direct recordings from the sound boards and are offered as is. You are welcome to record your own performance provided you are completely self-sufficient and do not create delays or logistical issues for the engineers or other performers. The performance videos from HBM26 will live on Tetractys New Music's YouTube channel. Reasonable use requests will be honored, and audio of the performances will be yours to use as you see fit so long as it is credited and Here Be Monsters is mentioned. Please note that we premiere performance videos throughout the year to celebrate the show, build the audience, and to promote your groups! As such, we ask that you allow TNM to premiere your performance video and host it on YouTube, and that you allow at least two weeks after the publishing of the HBM video to start your

Back to [Table of Contents](#)

own sharing of the video if you choose to do that. Also note that since we have 20 groups, some groups may have to wait up to six months before their performance is published! If this is going to cause any hardship or if you have a pressing need or event for which the HBM video can be helpful, let us know and we can try to make sure the timing works for you.

Additionally, it is possible that Tetractys New Music will arrange a studio recording session for the commissioned pieces. If that is happening, we will contact you again about specifics and you will be under no obligation to participate.

In all cases, you retain all ownership and rights to your work. The above relates only to the audio and video *recordings* of the specific HBM performances.

Community Things

2026

An introductory word about community and HBM26. The current state of things in Texas and in the U.S., especially for arts organizations, is difficult and changing fast. The world has changed vastly since last year; and so much that is creative, fragile, speculative, and beautiful feels - and is - threatened. For some of us, it may not be overstating it to say that nearly everything feels wrong. So be it. This is the world into which we are moving right now. If Here Be Monsters can be a source of strength, of light, or even just fun, then it will be serving a high purpose indeed. We can still come together and make and share music and community!

HBM as a method

We envision Here Be Monsters as a community resource and a living, ongoing *method*. If we do this right, the festival is the culmination of a process - of a way of being creatively active and engaged throughout the year. The festival matters, but it's not even the most important part. As artists, we must live and work in a rich way, focusing on the ongoing creation of meaning and learning and growth. Here Be Monsters is meant to facilitate that. In that way, the festival celebrates and shares the results of a year of creative living and collaboration and interactions. This is because Here Be Monsters was imagined as a way to generate more excellence, more energy, more life in our already amazing community.

Showing Up

So showing up to the hangouts is not some secondary afterthought; it is a huge opportunity! We hope everyone uses this calendar and the parallel processes it engenders as an invitation to talk to other groups, to share questions, inspirations, resources. The more we come together, the more the music will grow.

We may initiate some socializing in addition to the hangouts. Details to come on that. We also invite all Project Leads to send word when you are going to do something cool. It can be a music thing, or just a fun thing. An art thing (see text thread guidelines below).

HBM26 New Initiatives and Possible Changes

Greenhouse Commissions

We have been looking for ways to grow new connections between our community and cultural / musical organizations who currently are not connected, but should be. Without naming specific names, this includes things like Hindustani, Latin, Asian, or other cultural music-presenting organizations, folkloric dance companies, and even - possibly - writers' groups. The idea is to connect an indie-classical composer to one of these organizations, so that they supply a soloist or small group of musicians for a new commission. The resulting piece of music just has to live in the "indie-classical" world, and so these commissions will likely also need to be connected to one of our performing groups. If your group is interested in exploring this kind of commission, please let us know, and if you have particular organizations you would be eager to work with, let us know that too. This is an evolving effort.

HBM26 Fellows

In the first three years, we have made informal efforts to cultivate clarity about the aesthetic, cultural, and musical choices we make as a larger community, that express our deeper beliefs and our point of view. We've had forums, informal discussions, and it's been great.

This cycle, we are excited to share our plan to have four Here Be Monsters Fellows for the 2026 cycle. Details are being finalized and will be announced soon, but for now, the HBM26 Fellows will each receive an honorarium in exchange for their participation in ongoing meetings and explorations of the above questions. Two fellows will be artists from the community; two will be academics, one musicologist and one music theorist. Together and separately, the fellows and the HBM organizers (and any others who wish to participate), will spend the year exploring questions of musical identities in our community and the scenes within it.

The results of this endeavor will be shared with the community, hopefully in a gathering sometime relatively soon after the 2026 show, and in some kind of written form as well. Details are still coming together.

Headliners

From the beginning, in addition to developing our collective internal self-awareness, Here Be Monsters has had its eye on projecting those identities and stories out to people in Austin, in Texas, in the US, and around the world. To that end, we are exploring the possibility of inviting two groups, perhaps one from New York and another from LA, one for each night of the festival, to come perform and to see and hear what we are all about here.

We have also been committed to an egalitarian approach to booking and producing our show. We remain committed to that. That said, our hypothesis is that having nationally-known groups come here will increase both local ticket sales and also awareness of Austin as a center for excellent contemporary / indie-classical music. We feel this will benefit everyone.

World Building / “More Real Than Real”

This is embryonic and will be better shared in a future meeting, but we want to put it on everyone’s radar. We had a number of plans for last year’s show that for various reasons did not materialize, but all of which were digging into the desire to have the Here Be Monsters shows *feel* as different as they sound. We are looking into ways to create a festival environment that is as imaginative, vivid and extraordinary as our music is.

The informal theme for this is “More Real Than Real,” which points to the assertion that the “realism” of daily life in America in 2025 is, let’s just say, suspect. We assert that the realities of creative endeavor, wonder, love and community, which seem to be largely obliterated in everyday American life, are actually more real. We are interested in actualizing that at the festival somehow. More to come on this.

Policies

In the event that there are more organizations who want to participate in HBM26 than can be accommodated, participation will be decided by the Organizers. Consideration will be given to those who have not yet participated, but the composition of the overall show(s) will also be a factor. Ultimately, these decisions will be guided by the mission and principles of Here Be Monsters, and we will prioritize growing our community both internally and in the public eye.

FAQ

What is a stage plot / Input List?

Does Radio East have a projector and can we use it?

When will we know our set time?

When is the latest date we can change our program or performance plans?

Logistics Details

Radio East technical specifications:

Important: Whatever your instrumentation, it must work within these basic specifications - 8 DIs + 8 Mics + Drum Kit - so please plan accordingly.

We will update technical specs for HBM26 as details emerge, but the following overall limits will apply to any stages we have, and should be considered in your planning for your performance.

Please note: For HBM26, each group is required to submit a **stage plot** and an **input list**. Please note that unlike past years, this year each group must create a stage plot and input list using the stage plot designer linked below.

<https://www.bossradioatx.com/stage-plot-designer/>

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS for both stages:

Dimensions: 20' x 20' (Yellow Stage 16' x 20')

Power: Available anywhere on stage

Monitors: 4 monitors at the front of stage and 1 toward the back

Total available channels for performers:

- 8 DIs: 8 total channels (max of 4 stereo signals)
- 8 Microphones: 8 total channels of mics on stands
- 8 Channels for drum kit: 8 available channels (note: these are dedicated drum kit mics. These channels are not available in addition to the 16 above for DIs or instrument mics)

Boards are Allen and Heath SQ5s:

<https://www.allen-heath.com/hardware/sq/>

Radio East Projector:

<https://epson.com/For-Home/Projectors/Home-Cinema/Home-Cinema-3800-4K-PRO-UHD-3-Chip-Projector-with-HDR/p/V11H959020>

BACKLINE:

- Drums: We expect both stages to have backline drum kits. Your drummers will have to bring “breakables” i.e., snare, cymbals, sticks etc.
- Digital Pianos: We plan to provide one available digital piano for each stage

Note that with a show like this, there’s no opportunity for complex real-time mixing or sound treatments. It is possible to ask for general settings for reverbs and delays and so on, but please note that there will not be time to sound check effects, so if you need very particular effects, best to do them yourself on stage and then send out lines to the board.

Day of Show

This section is where we will put all necessary day-of-show information. This will likely go up starting in March 2026, and will include all show-day contact information, sound check and strike information, volunteering logistics, parking, artist refreshments and/or drink tickets, and so on. Watch this space!

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And that’s it! This document will grow and change in the coming months, so please keep an eye on it and come here first before emailing any questions. We will let you know when any major updates or new information is available.

Please also note that we are developing this event in real time, and so things are subject to change. This does not apply to contracts and payments, but remember this is a punk rock operation and changes are to be expected.

Back to [Table of Contents](#)

We are so thrilled to be doing this with all of you!!

TNM