

## **Performer Frequently Asked Questions**

*(last updated: Tue Jul 8 at 10:17 am)*

**\*\*\*\*\*NO LONGER ACCEPTING PERFORMER SIGN UPS (7/7/2025)\*\*\*\*\***

### **What is Cambridge Porchfest?**

Cambridge Porchfest is a free, walkable, community musical event. Folks host musicians on their porch, in their yards or driveways, with the idea that anyone who wants can come by and check it out. A lot of nearby towns host porchfests - Somerville, Brookline, JP, Watertown, and others. Cambridge is hosting its first porchfest this year in the Cambridgeport neighborhood just south of Central Square.

### **When is Cambridge Porchfest?**

Saturday July 19<sup>th</sup> from 12-6 in Cambridgeport. In addition, the Central Square Business Investment District is planning to bring live music to outdoor dining and gathering spaces in Central Square on Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Visit

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/arts/Programs/Porchfest> for additional info and updates.

### **Is there a rain date?**

No.

### **Who can play?**

All are welcome. Play solo or with a group, electric or acoustic, with instruments or a cappella.

### **Will I get paid?**

No. Porchfest is free! Performers donate their time. Porch owners donate their porch, lawn, driveway, or patio as a performance space. But you are welcome to put out a tip jar, sell merch, promote future shows – whatever can help fund your artistic pursuits.

### **Where can I play?**

You can play on your own porch, yard or driveway or find someone who can host on their property. Porchfest organizers can help connect performers and hosts.

### **Do I need to be from Cambridge to perform?**

No. We are excited to feature as many neighborhood performers as possible, but welcome anyone who would like to perform.

### **How loud can I play?**

Keep your volume reasonable. The goal is to be heard on the sidewalk, but not down the street. There may be other bands nearby (and a few sleeping babies!), so please be respectful. Reach out and coordinate with nearby hosts and performers to make sure everyone can be heard.

### **How long should I play for?**

That's up to you and your porch host. Porchfest will run from 12-6. Some hosts may only want to open up their space for a couple of hours. You could be the only act, or you could share a bill with other performers.

### **What will the host provide?**

Hosts will provide outdoor performance space and access to electricity.

Hosts may be able to offer performers access to restroom facilities – but that's really up to them. The City of Cambridge will set up portable toilets at convenient locations across the neighborhood.

### **What should I bring?**

Bring your own equipment, extension cords, and PA if you need them. Snacks and beverages (non-alcoholic) for yourself and your guests, if you choose. We encourage performers to coordinate with one another – share a drumset, PA, microphones, and so on. Porchfest organizers may be able to provide sound equipment for performers who need it.

### **What about accessibility?**

We encourage hosts to consider audience and performer accessibility. If you or your band have specific needs please let us know and we'll do our best to match you with a suitable space.

### **How is Cambridge Porchfest being promoted?**

Cambridge Porchfest will be promoted collaboratively by Cambridge Arts, the Central Square Business Investment District, and the Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association. There will be a website and social media presence. There will be a map and signage to help your audience find you on the day of the porchfest. More details to come!

### **Great, where do I sign up?**

Sign up for performers is now closed. Thank you for your interest! Please visit <https://www.cambridgema.gov/arts/Programs/Porchfest> for regular updates.

### **I have other questions, who do I contact?**

Please email us at [cportchfest@cambridgeport.org](mailto:cportchfest@cambridgeport.org)