



<http://meandthee.org>

If you are a performer and would like a gig at the me&thee coffeehouse, please read the following:

A LITTLE BACKGROUND

The me&thee is one of the most well-respected listening rooms in the Northeast. We have been presenting live music since 1970. It's on many musicians' bucket lists to play here. The coffeehouse is run entirely by volunteers who love what they do and we truly do love discovering new talent.

However, there are simply not enough Fridays in our season to accommodate all the wonderful artists, both local and international, emerging and famous, who want and deserve to be booked.

We are often overwhelmed with hundreds of submissions from artists who want to be considered. As a result, we have a huge backlog of people we'd love to present, and an even larger backlog of people we haven't had time to consider yet. (Remember, we're all volunteers here—we have day jobs!)

This is not meant to discourage you but to inform you that the odds of a booking are tough.

WHAT AND WHEN WE PRESENT

That said, here are more specifics. We mostly present folk, roots, Americana and similar music, primarily acoustic, both traditional and contemporary, including singer-songwriters. We define all those genre terms very broadly, and thus look for a lot of variety. However, we generally do not consider rock bands, commercial country, rap, jazz, electric blues, inspirational or spoken word programming. It's not that we don't like any of these, it's just not our niche. Because of our small stage, we rarely present groups larger than four or five. We can make large bands work but it's snug.

Our shows are only on FRIDAYS, so don't bother to inquire about other days of the week. Also—one more important point: we only present shows from September through mid-May (only one show in December and one show in January). No summer shows!

We usually book 6–12 months in advance, sometimes longer, sometimes shorter. We book a variety of greater Boston area artists and an even bigger number of national and international touring artists

A WORD OR TWO ABOUT OPENERS

You may or may not know that all openers must be approved by the feature act's management and/or booking agency. Some features specify on their contracts that there are no openers at all. Many feature acts bring along their own openers or request certain acts who they know. Oftentimes those openers also back up the featured performer. In addition, most feature acts

prefer solo acts to open for them. Again, it depends on the personal connection between the feature and the opener. A lot of care and love and discretion go into choosing each opener act. For lack of a better word, we look for “magical” combinations and believe in presenting each of our evenings as a “whole package” and thus the selection of each opener is a critical part of our overall decisions about acts for the entire season.

When we present co-bills, we don't have openers because the night would be too long. And please be aware that we generally don't book openers who we have not personally seen live. Our volunteers make it a point to attend many shows throughout the year as well as festivals and conferences. We're aware of who is receiving a buzz and attracting the interest of ticket buyers.

OK. SO HOW DO YOU GET OUR ATTENTION?

First, check our website listings and our Performer Links page to get an idea of what we present. You can also look to see our alphabetical listing of musicians who have played at our venue since its opening in 1970. Please consider where you are in your career in relation to the artists who have played here.

Important: Be sure to put the word “booking” and the artist's name in the subject line in order to get past SPAM filters. You might also mention if you are looking for a full feature gig or an opener.

The email message should contain one or two paragraphs describing what you do, and website links (not attachments) where we can listen to samples of your music (your website, Bandcamp, CDBaby, SonicBids, etc.) Yes, we do check online samples! If we want/need to hear more, we'll request a commercial CD and/or a live recording. (Sometimes we need a sample without the backup band, drum kit and background singers—just the group you're planning to perform with.) If you're looking for a certain season or date, say so.

If email is not an option for you to send your music along, please write to:

me&thee coffeehouse
28 Mugford Street
Marblehead, MA 01945.

We will contact you if/when we can explore a possible gig. It's really not necessary to keep asking us over and over. We know what we like and it's not easy telling some acts that we really don't see a place in our schedule for them.

Please understand that we receive dozens of inquiries every week. We can't respond to all e-mails and mailings. Please don't take it personally—as we said earlier, we're all volunteers. We respect your artistry and professionalism and your right to be heard and to make a living. It's just that there are so many of you and so few volunteer hours in a day!

Best of luck!