



Tips and Tricks for FAMI Jam Leaders

1. Have fun!

We are so pleased that you have stepped up and volunteered to be a jam leader. It is our hope that the experience is fun and energizing for all jam leaders. Please let us know if we can help in any way.

2. Develop a theme and stick loosely to it.

Be prepared to be flexible with others relative to the theme. However, if someone arrives in your jam and tries to “hijack” your theme, feel free to remind them of the theme.

3. Be prepared.

Being a jam leader isn't meant to be hard work. There are two things you'll want to do before diving in.

- Spend some time thinking about how you'd like the jam to go.
- Come to the jam prepared with 4-5 songs that fit your theme that you can lead. You'll want one that you are really comfortable with, and that is likely to get people to join in, to kick things off. Depending on the size of the jam you may only get around the circle a couple of times or in a smaller jam (or a jam with lots of “passes”), it can come around many times.

4. Set the example

You have an opportunity, by being first up, to model the way you'd like the jam to go. Be ready with your song to start, as well as each time it comes to your turn again. Also set the example by:

- Introducing yourself and the theme
- Mention the name of the song
- Mention the Key,
- Mention whether you're using a capo,
- Mention the structure of the song i.e. verse, verse, chorus, instrumental,
- Mention whether there is room for some soloing. When the solo comes around be sure to look around the room and see who is keen, don't



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always go back to the same one or two soloist just because they are the most competent.

5. Manage the chaos (or do your best)

If your jam becomes unruly do your best to rein it in a little. This might involve things such as:

- Reminding people to be ready with a song when their turn comes
- Reminding people to pull down the volume for a soloist or vocalist
- Reminding people of the theme or level of the jam
- Reminding people to mention the song, key etc.
- Note: 'Occasionally you'll have someone suggest a song that they can't play. This can be problematic for a couple of reasons. Someone else who does know the song might dive in and take the lead throwing off the pattern of moving around the circle. Alternatively, the individual might just need some support to get the song counted in and started. Please assist as best you can, but know that if a person bring a song to a jam they should be able to contribute to it in some significant way, i.e. singing the lead or playing an instrument.

6. Respect the timelines for jamming in the location you are in.

7. Have fun!!