

## NAA Jam Session Etiquette

The intent of our jam sessions is to provide a fun environment for conference attendees to play their instruments with others. While we encourage the participation of all skill levels, our primary concern is allowing a safe and fun environment for those at lower skill levels. To do so, we have provided easy arrangements of the songs we will be playing in the jam sessions and encourage you to have the music with you when you attend. You will be more satisfied if you have had a chance to practice them. But if you have not, do not worry, join us, and have fun!

1. **Jam sessions are to be fun.** They are not practice. They are not to entertain anyone except yourselves. Make it fun!
2. **Jams are musical training sessions.** It is okay if you make mistakes; you can experiment. Be tolerant of others who are making mistakes of their own. We value good manners.
3. **Shyness is expected.** If you are shy, do not worry. Join in and play. The jam is a chance for people to have a good time being less than perfect. Encourage others to participate.
4. **Applaud and be happy.** Reward behavior positively. Make everyone feel they have done a good job. Even the worst player improves with each play.
5. **Feel free to request a song from the posted list.** Jamming is no fun when someone plays an unfamiliar song in an unfamiliar key.
6. **Improvise.** Playing chords only is a good training exercise. If your skill level is such that you want to improvise, that is fine. Please do so moderately without making the melody unrecognizable.
7. **Unsure of a song?** It is OK to play quietly until you get the hang of it. It is also OK to stop until you find a place where you feel you can join in again. We want you to play. **Mistakes are authorized.**
8. **Ask for help!** Please ask the leader for help that would enhance your enjoyment. Requests like *“Could we do this song over again at a slower tempo?”* or *“Can someone play measures X and Y for a moment so I can listen to it and try to figure it out?”*
9. **Value added.** We value respect for each other regardless of ability or experience.
10. **Repeat.** Go back to the first two points - Have fun, take part, do not worry about mistakes.