

What To Expect When Playing In A Nursing Home

Dear Musicianary,

Thank you for volunteering to use your gift for the least of these. I hope you know that the Lord is in the audience watching. The stage you have stepped onto is a holy one and all of heaven is cheering. To God Be the Glory.

Because these shows are only one hour long, we only have one or 2 musicians on these shows. The musician will arrive 30 minutes prior to the performance for set up/soundcheck. The sound equipment will be there for you ready to go. You only need to bring your instrument. We provide all mics, stands, cables and sound.

A volunteer from Jesus in a Bar will be there to meet you and help you inside the building. The doors will be locked and the person at the desk inside needs to see you to let you in. They do a pretty good job and are quick. You can keep your car parked in front of the building past the double doors while you unload and then just need to park around the back of the building when you're done.

You will be in their public meeting space in the facility. Remember your interactions with your audience off stage are equally or even more important than the show itself. Be kind to them, show an interest in them. Also be interactive. Some of the patients LOVE to dance even sitting in their chairs. PLEASE make three quarters of your hour fast songs. They love oldies, anything familiar they can clap to. Please also include hymns or worship songs they may know. Feel free to sing some originals but this will be more covers that get them moving, happy and clapping!

This could be the highlight of their week to listen to musicians from Nashville. Once the sound check is complete, you can begin sharing songs and stories just like you would at a regular Jesus in a Bar writers round. Keep in mind, you're in a nursing home, so the sound may not be the highest quality. Don't let this discourage you and have fun. You're there to bring joy, so be joyful. One thing I would really like to make sure that yall know is that sometimes you have patients that really can't speak or move around much. All they can do is blankly stare at you and be quiet. Please know that they wanted to be there no matter what and how they react is not reflected on your musical ability or what you're playing. We all know that applause makes us feel more confident to play, but know that some of these people may not be able to do that.

The performance will run one hour. So be prepared to play up to 12-15 songs. After the show, patients may want to meet you and have conversations. Again, your time off stage is equally or even more important than your time on stage. Show them the kindness of Christ. This will be a humbling experience for you. You are witnessing the power of music much like David might have playing the harp for Saul. These shows will bless you as much as they bless the patients. These shows have become a favorite of songwriters around town.

We look forward to seeing you in a nursing home soon!

Krystal from Jesus in a Nursing Home

Leviticus 19:32 ESV - "You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the Lord"