



Alison, John and ECP students sing songs in our Molineux lounge area. Could this be used as a venue for living-room concerts in future?

Weekly English Practice

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Coaching
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Your Living Room Might Be Your Next Concert Venue

House concerts give singer-songwriters like Callaghan a way to earn a living, while bringing music to fans in the most intimate way

jambalaya: a cajun rice dish

mindful of: thinking about

stock: to fill a storage space

due: expected

marvel: to wonder at / be amazed by sth

makeshift: temporary substitute

green room: for use by artists when they are not on stage

mighty: possessing great and impressive power or strength

At 5:58 on a warm and sunny spring evening in North Quincy, Massachusetts, Frank Sullivan is stirring a pot of homemade **jambalaya** on the kitchen stove with a smile on his face. "I love cooking," he says. "It's a gift - and a curse - from my father. He taught me you can never make enough food for a party."

Frank's wife, Maribeth Sayers, is having a rest at the kitchen table after setting out an array of crisps, dip (sauces) and vegetables. **Mindful of** the guests on their way, she and Frank have also **stocked** the indoor terrace with coolers filled with beers, their long, glass necks emerging temptingly from the ice.

About 40 people are **due** to arrive—most of whom are friends and family—at their home. But as promising as the aroma of jambalaya may be, they're coming for something other than good food and drink. A sign on the back door reveals the nature of this evening's festivities: "Performing Tonight: Callaghan. Cover: \$20."

This isn't just a party for Frank and Maribeth. They're putting on a concert. The kitchen will double as a record store, with the window sill as a **makeshift** merchandise table. One of the house's three bedrooms serves as a **green room**, and the stage will be in the living room near the picture window. Later, when it's all over, the kitchen

will become the post-show meet-and-greet area for those holding a VIP pass, which in this case will be everyone. House concerts aren't new. In 2001, Pat DiNizio of the Smithereens logged 70 shows (and more than 65,000 miles) in his five-month "Living Room Tour." Emerging bands supplement club dates with shows in quasi-professional DIY performance spaces and private homes, and veteran artists offer fans the chance to book living-room shows.

They've also become an increasingly common way for artists, mostly singer-songwriters, to make a viable living. Tonight, far from the lights and lasers of arenas that fit more than 20,000 fans, Callaghan is singing for approximately 40 people in a living room.

Listen to British artist Callaghan at

www.callaghansongs.com

"I've been amazed, actually, at how many people have offered to host a concert in their home," Callaghan **marvels**, especially at the fact that they traditionally offer artists a free place to sleep, making petrol one of the only major expenses of such a tour. Hosts like Frank and Maribeth are helping reshape the business of touring, if not music consumption entirely.

Adapted from: www.billboard.com

"Let's chat about that!"

Write your answers in an email and send them to your ECP coach!

Give reasons for your answers

- What would you enjoy most/least about a living-room concert?
- Why do you think artists like Callaghan choose to perform in this way?
- What kind of concerts have you been to and what did you like about them?
- Would you ever consider hosting a concert in your living room? Why (not)?



“iLook, iThink, iSpeak” Express yourself better!

Expanding your vocabulary: Music

Do you know the names of these instruments in English? Unjumble (*put in the right order*) the letters below to make words! You can use this [page](#) if it's too difficult.

Check your answers and listen to the pronunciation at www.macmillandictionary.com

ulbedo sabs - udsmr - lirctece agritu - anopi - buat
pexsoonah - rtpmute - inovli - ctucsioa tigrua



Seasons Greetings

from English Coaching Projects!!

**ECP will be closed from
24th Dec to 8th Jan.**

See you in 2017!!



Christmas traditions
How 'traditional' are they?



Think about three generations of your family. How have these different generations celebrated Christmas? Have your family 'traditions' changed? If so, how?