



## Start a hometown SongFarmers Music Club and Facebook page

Start a SongFarmers community music club on your front porch, your living room, wherever folks can gather. ... it's a simple local gathering of friends to pick and sing on a regular basis.

Here's some guidelines:

a) First become an active member of the WFPA and read over the info on the Music Club page of SongFarmers.org

b) create a Facebook page that looks like this:  
**"SongFarmers** of (your hometown)"  
 "SongFarmers" one word, capitol F, with the 's' at the end.

c) Always use and link **SongFarmers.org**

d) Your SongFarmers local gatherings should always be free, non-ticketed, pot luck and involve as many kids as you can. One of the amazing things about these clubs is dicovering the vibrant seedling community of young players. It is amazing! Many others have already started one up. Its easy, it's FREE and it's FUN. Do it for the sheer joy of community and playing music.

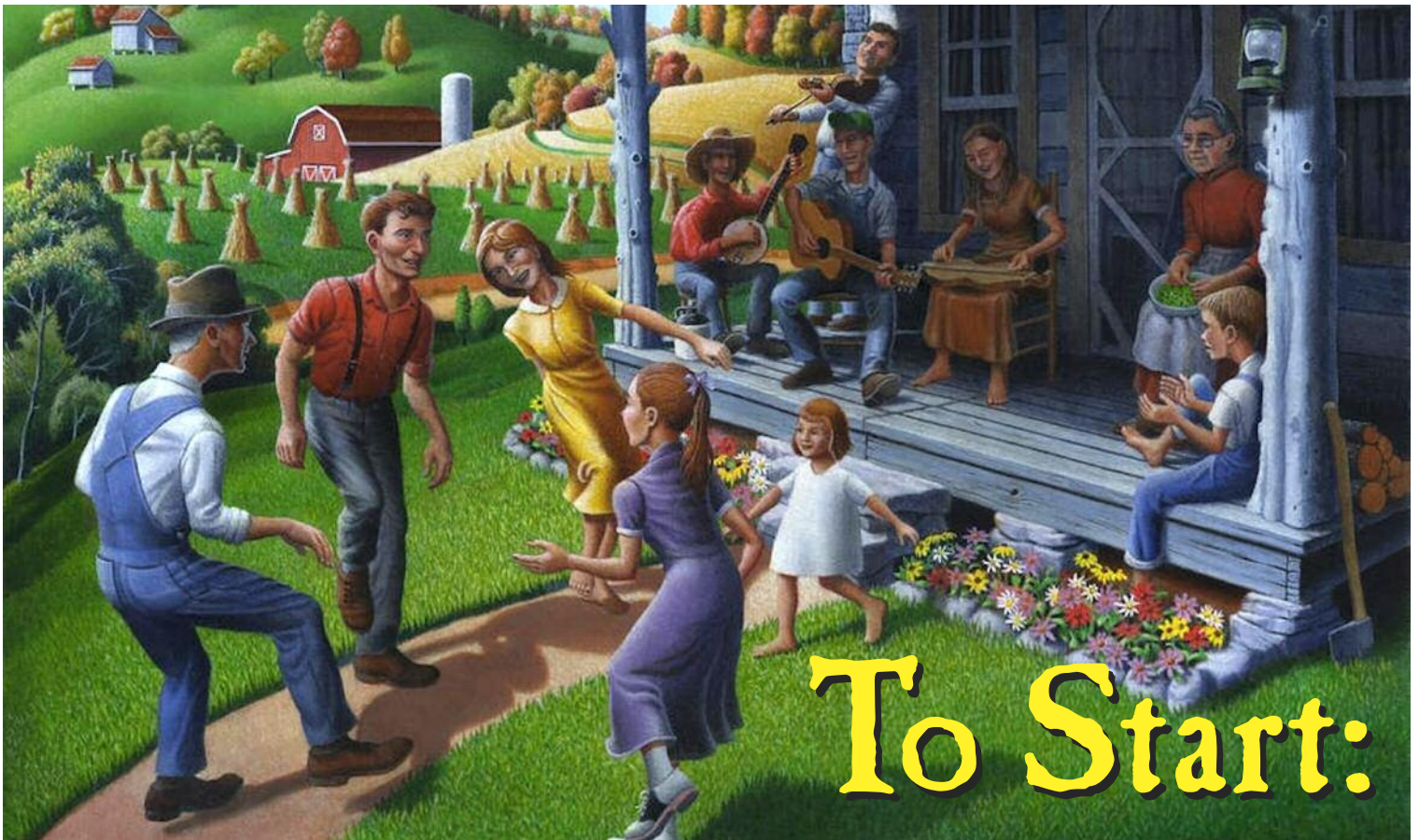
e) **Let us know you are doing it by sending an email to WFPA@woodsongs.com. We will send you logos, artwork and flyer art you can use to start your SongFarmers Music Club.**

f) everyone should be encouraged to **become active members of the WoodSongs Front Porch Association and attend our next Gathering.** Members get FREE tickets to the WoodSongs Gathering on September 23 and 24, 2016. Sign up here: SongFarmers.org or call call 859-255-5700

g) and post a lot of ding-dang pictures!

Folksinger - SongFarmer  
 michael@woodsongs.com





# To Start:

Fill out the following and mail to us **WoodSongs Front Porch Association PO Box 200 Lexington, KY 40588**.... (or copy and paste and email to **WFPA@WoodSongs.com**) .... or fax to **859-225-4020**

Questions? Call us 859-255-5700 10-5PM EDT

Member Name:

Address:

City State ZIP

EMAIL:

Phone:

Our SongFarmer Club will generally be held in this location:

YES please email me the SongFarmer artwork. I agree not to change/alter the logo

YES I am setting up our Facebook page, setting it to public so folks can find us.

YES please mail us some handout materials for our community

YES please have Penny the SongFarmer mom arrange our Facebook logo art for us.

Greetings, SongFarmers!

We are very happy you want to be part of our SongFarmers Music Club. This is a free, open-to-all picking session. We are here for the love of music, love of community and love of playing.



Here are some simple suggestions to make the community SongFarmer Jam sessions fun for all:

- 1- TUNING:** It's ok if you are not sure how to tune your instrument, others will help you. This is important because someone sitting close to you may hear the out of tune instrument and get distracted. Being in tune is better for you, better for your instrument and better for the group. If you want to purchase your own tuner visit your local music store, they are not expensive and very easy to use. If you have a smart phone there are FREE apps you can use that are very accurate.
- 2. TUNE OFTEN:** You are not being distracting or rude! Tuning should be done before you play your first song and you can easily check your tuning between songs and tweak when necessary. Some people actually check their tuning between every song.
- 3. TIMING:** This is the speed and tempo of the song. If you're not sure of the tempo try to focus on the bass player. The Bass player drives the tempo of the song. This is a fun thing to learn. The person leading the song will usually also strum or pick several measures of the song at first to set the tempo. If the song starts to speed up (which is typical) the leader may call out "slow down." That's ok! Remember that as songs become louder, they tend to become faster. Just follow the song leader and you will be just fine.
- 4. SONG SELECTION:** A SongFarmer event is a community effort. Music jams like this are not intended to be a performance stage for individuals. There are no "stars" or spotlights at a SongFarmer jam, everyone is equal. That means we want to pick songs that the group can play together. Original songs can be fine but when someone wants to sing a song the group is not familiar with, or may have a difficult chord progression, it can leave many in the group out. We don't want that because we want everyone to have fun!
- 5. SONGS WITH LYRICS** help the players notice chord changes easier. Tunes that don't have words - instrumentals - are generally more difficult for a large group to play.
- 6. SONG KEY:** This is usually the first chord of the song. Tell the group what KEY your song is in so the group can join in. Remember: simple is best, first position chords are easiest to follow ... and some musicians don't have or like to use capos.
- 7. SING FROM THE HEART:** Nothing about a SongFarmer Music Club is about "perfection," it's about love, joy, community and music. If you are doing a song with a fun chorus like *This Land Is Your Land* invite the other singers to join you on the chorus. Feel free to harmonize with the singer on the verses - but leave the melody for the lead singer. Even if you don't play an instrument you can still sing and be a SongFarmer!
- 8. VOLUME:** Here's a good tip - if you can't hear the lead singer you are probably playing too loud. The harder you use the instrument the quicker it will go out of tune. So if you can't hear the lead singer (thus losing your place) just pull back and play softer, that should solve it.

Remember – our goal in a SongFarmer event is to make everyone else have fun and sound better. The more you consider others the more you will shine. Your fellow SongFarmers will appreciate it ... so have fun!

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