

The 2026 NorthEast Squeeze-In

ATTENDEE GUIDE

September 25 - 27 [Wisdom House](#), Litchfield CT

Arrival

Arrival check-in opens at 3 pm. Please don't come sooner. Park your car as tightly as possible. In fact, try for tighter than possible. Look for signs that will direct you to the registration room. You'll get a name button and an information packet that includes your room assignment, the processional tune, a general schedule for the weekend, and 4 tickets for the Sunday lunchtime raffle.

You'll be asked to complete an emergency contact form. Please make sure to bring the information we would need in order to reach someone for you if required (name, phone, relationship), even if that person is also at NESI.

Remember to wear your name button throughout the weekend. We don't all know each other, and we always have first-timers. Ideally, everyone will be signed in by 5:00 pm. There will be an orientation meeting in the auditorium at 5:30. Please plan to attend. It's important. We'll be announcing any changes or additions to the information you were given, making introductions, welcoming first-timers, and taking questions. Dinner will be served at 6:00.

Accommodations

- All of the rooms are heated and well-ventilated.
- Pillows, bed linens, washcloths, and towels are provided by Wisdom House. The beds will be made up before you arrive.
- If you chose a 2-person or 3-person shared room and did not specify a roommate, one or two will have been assigned.
- Please don't make any room changes without speaking with Lynn Hughes, the person who probably signed you in.
- If your housing includes using the shared bathrooms on your floor, we suggest that you locate them soon after you arrive.
- There are NO men's rooms on the 2nd floor, although there are workshop rooms and jamming spaces there.

There are a few important requirements relating to housing.

- There is absolutely no smoking of any kind (including vaping) in any indoor space. If you set off a smoke alarm, we will be charged \$200.
- You need to turn off lights and any fans, close windows when you leave on Sunday.
- Put your towels and washcloth (NOT bedding) into the laundry chute at the end of the hall on your floor when you leave. If you don't do this, we are charged \$20 for every transgression.
- Leave bedding in your room.

What to Bring

- Personal items such as soap, shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste, and your favorite stuffy.
- A robe and slippers are recommended if you are in a room with a shared bath down the hall.
- Sunscreen, a hat, and bug repellent -- there are gardens and other areas suitable for walks and outdoor jamming.
- If you are planning to offer a workshop, please bring your own handouts (if any); files can be [uploaded to our website](#).
- You may want to bring some kind of recording device for any workshops you attend. Be sure to ask for permission from the workshop leader before recording.
- You may want to bring a music stand. If you are planning to perform in the concert and use printed music, a battery-operated light would be a good idea. The stage is not well-lit where you would need it.
- A copy of the Wisdom House floor plans and property map, [downloaded from our website](#): useful but not required.
- There are NO pets allowed on site.

The Weekend Schedule

A schedule will be included in your arrival envelope. It's an overview of how the time is blocked out throughout the weekend. It tells you when meals are, when the workshops take place every day, and other things that are linked to a specific time. It does not tell you what the workshops and focused jams are, as they are not scheduled in advance. You'll find them listed on the Big Board in the auditorium as leaders post them throughout the weekend.

Food and Drink

- Wisdom House is committed to serving sustainable food. That means they do not serve shellfish, beef, or pork.
- They accommodate vegetarian, vegan, dairy-free, and gluten-free diets in the general meal service.
- We know that their coffee is terrible, but there is nothing we can do about that.
- There are 2 kitchenettes with refrigerators and microwaves that we are welcome to use.
- Responsible consumption of alcohol by those over 21 is permitted. Please make sure you clean up after yourself and use good judgment.
- You are welcome to bring wine or beer into the dining room, but it must be in an unbreakable cup or glass.
- Snacks (mostly provided by NESI) will be available throughout the weekend in the registration room. Participants are encouraged to bring something to share, too. At the end of the weekend, we always appreciate help with cleaning up the snack area.

Workshops, Jams, and the Big Board

Workshops are as varied as our participants, and most are unannounced until the weekend starts. Some are created on the spot in response to requests. Try something new. You might get involved in a tango workshop, learn Klezmer or Breton tunes and techniques, or find out how to fix your concertina or accordion from people that make and repair them.

The “Big Board” is where people can post offers of workshops and focused jams as well as requests. It will be in the auditorium. Remember that this is a DIY event – it’s only as good as we all make it, and it evolves throughout the weekend. Consider offering a workshop if there’s something you could teach. Please bring your own handouts, if any. We do have a copier, in case you run short, but it won’t print from your phone or other device. It’s just a copier. You can also use our website’s [workshop files](#) section to share your handouts in advance.

Jams are sometimes open-ended and sometimes intentionally limited in theme. You could post a focused jam on the Big Board on such topics as Scandinavian tunes, old-time waltzes, or television theme songs. It’s a good idea to check the Big Board frequently so you don’t miss something that would have interested you. Things get added throughout the weekend. Suggestion: Use your phone to take a picture of the day’s workshops on the Big Board so you can easily find a different one if your choice doesn’t work out.

First timers: Workshops are open to everyone who wants to attend. You don’t need to sign up. Just go to the designated room. If you decide for any reason that a workshop is not for you, just leave quietly. No one will mind.

Here is a [Jamming Etiquette guide](#) that will help all of us be welcomed into the seemingly-endless assortment of jams and sessions that go on throughout the weekend.

Saturday Night

This is the centerpiece of the event. It includes the concert and the contra dance. After dinner, we will have a **processional march** to our evening concert in the auditorium, with massed squeezers playing a tune together. Please join in, even if you haven’t learned the tune. The processional tune/march is a Scandinavian walking tune, the *Äppelbo Gånglåt*. Gånglåts were traditionally played in Scandinavia by people walking a distance to a barn dance. Äppelbo Gånglåt:

[In PDF format](#)

[In ABC format](#)

[MP3 sound file, to learn by ear](#)

On Saturday morning, in the registration room, there will be a pile of sign-up sheets for the **concert**. We encourage people of all skill levels to sign up. You don’t need to be an expert or a professional. You just need to be willing to share what you do with the friendliest and most supportive audience you’re likely ever to find. Because of the large number of people who usually participate, **performers are limited to one appearance, doing ONE song or one SHORT set of tunes**. You don’t need to play a free-reed instrument to perform – we’ve had fiddles, clogging, a hurdy-gurdy, bagpipes, and unaccompanied singers, among others. All performances should be no more than 4 minutes long, *including any introductory remarks*. **Please time it** before you go onstage.

Important: When the sign-up sheets run out, there is no more room for performers. The concert will end at 9:30 pm whether everyone who signed up has performed or not. We put first-time Squeeze-In performers onstage ahead of others to make sure they get a chance to share their party piece.

We’re doing a joke contest instead of a poetry competition this year. Entries must be written – no images, amateur theatrics, etc. The joke must involve free-reed instruments in some way. Winning submissions will be read during the concert, and prizes of questionable value will be awarded. There will be a container in the registration room for your entries. It’s actually a dead concertina – your legibly-written entry should go inside. Don’t forget to include your name.

Private Sales

- We will set up some tables for private sales in the room across the hall from registration.
- You are welcome to sell instruments as well as music books, CDs, accessories, and the like.
- Most people set up an honor-system payment box for small things.
- If you're selling an instrument, be sure to post your name, contact information, etc. so that interested people can find you. Professional dealers and instrument makers can bring items for sale; plan on having a space that is no larger than half of a 4 x 8 table.
- Liberty Bellows will not be attending NESI this year. However, we are hoping that someone will run a repair workshop.

Please be VERY careful with food and drink around the sales tables. We've had some spills that could have been serious.

The Sunday Raffle

You will find 4 red raffle tickets in your registration envelope. The main prize is a 50% discount for basic accommodation for one person at the 2027 Squeeze-In. Everyone has been automatically entered for it. The drawing will be held in the auditorium at 11:45 am on Sunday morning, just before lunch starts at 12. You must be present in order to win. The prize is fully transferable.

Departure

People need to be packed and out of their rooms by 11 am on Sunday. Please close any open windows, turn off lights and any fans, and put towels and washcloths (but NOT bed linens) in the laundry chute on your floor. Leave bedding in your room. Remember that we are charged if you don't do this. Lunch is served at 12:00. And yes, you can hang around until 3 pm – just not in your room. If you need a place to put your stuff before you load your car, you can leave it in the registration room.

Ride Sharing

Looking for a ride? Do you have room for a passenger who could share the cost of gas? Please use Si-Talk to let other attendees know. If you are not already a member, you can find information about that [here](#). By the way, even if you don't need Si-Talk for this reason, consider joining anyway. The more members we have, the better it works for all kinds of squeeze-related purposes.

Dealing with Problems and Questions

Members of the Squeeze-In board of directors will be wearing name buttons that identify them as part of the board. If they can't address your issue, they'll find someone who can. If you have questions or requests before the weekend, please contact Lynn, not the staff at Wisdom House (lynnh1947@gmail.com).

Our Covid Policy

- The 2026 NorthEast Squeeze-In is a mask-optional event.
- Please respect and support other participants' choices when it comes to masking and vaccinations
- We strongly recommend (but do not require) that all attendees be vaccinated and have all of the boosters for which they are eligible.
- We ask that all attendees have a rapid or PCR test for Covid before arriving at the event site, especially if you suspect you might have been exposed to Covid.
- Please stay home if you test positive, are sick, or showing any symptoms of Covid.
- If you become sick or develop symptoms of Covid during the event, please let one of the organizers know and go home.
- We can arrange for a refund on request if you cannot attend or must leave the event early due to illness.
- If you test positive for Covid after returning home, please notify us so we can alert the rest of the participants.
- Our Covid policy is subject to change, in which case you will be notified by email. If a change in our requirements makes you ineligible to participate in the event, we will issue a full refund if it is requested no more than 5 days after we publish those changes.

A Final Word

Nothing is required of you, but there are lots of choices. You might jam in a crowd, play with a few others, or seek some quiet time in the inviting outdoor setting. You might join sessions, attend and/or lead workshops, and enjoy the Saturday night concert as audience or performer. You can lift your feet in the dance that follows the concert and lift your voice in the pub sing until the wee hours. It's all here in a laid-back, free-spirited weekend. We make it up as we go along, so it's different every year. Thanks for joining in!