

TIPS FOR CORRECT SESSION ETIQUETTE

Recent postings on the list have indicated clearly to me that too many good people are agonizing over proper session behavior. In an effort to help them free up their lives for other pursuits, Zouki herewith presents a few tips for handling common session problems.

Note: these solutions are not mutually exclusive and can be utilized in combination as circumstances demand. Good luck!

Situation 1:

Oaf Musician Plays at Deadly Rate of Speed, Bores Thousands

Solutions:

- (a) Pass him/her a crudely-lettered note threatening death to his/her house pets unless he/she slows the hell down
- (b) [For male oaf] Announce at the conclusion of his efforts that you just read somewhere that fast playing of music is a symptom of imminent impotence / testicular degeneration
- (c) [For female oaf] Mention to someone else loud enough for the oaf to hear you that you don't personally know any woman who can play that fast without sweating

Situation 2:

Guitar Player With No Knowledge of Irish Music Decides He's Just What It Has Been Missing for the Past 600 Years.

Solutions:

- (a) You "accidentally" drop a basket of hot drippy nachos all over his instrument, and pretend it was his fault
- (b) You tell him that Django Reinhardt played twice as fast with half the fingers, and slide a butter knife silently but meaningfully over in his direction
- (c) You casually mention that in bardic Ireland, anyone playing a diminished or major-seventh chord on his clairseach was hung upside-down from an oak tree and fed nothing but laxatives for two days
- (d) You ask him if he's familiar with the latest report from the American Medical Association linking DADGAD tuning to the increased likelihood of a shortened life span

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Situation 3:

Guy Comes In, Sits Down, Without a Break Plays 29 Tunes Unknown to You and Your Pals.

Solutions:

- (a) You thank him and tell him that next week's session will be held at *[name of local S & M club or Hell's Angels hangout]*
- (b) You thank him and tell him that you think he'd be a real whiz at playing good Irish music whenever he cared to try it
- (c) You thank him and tell him not to worry - you too had trouble learning "The Boys of Blue Hill"

Situation 4:

Dude Is Laughing and Making Rude Noises While You're Trying to Perform a Slow Air.

Solutions:

- (a) tell him that you understand how tough it must be for someone who had been repeatedly abused when young by a baboon to sit quietly for ten minutes
- (b) ask him politely if it was Moe, Larry, or Curly who had the greatest influence on his appreciation of the finer things of life
- (c) thank him for the gift of his laughter and creativity, then sneak outside, find his car, and empty a six-pack of Coors Light into his gas tank

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Zouki can almost guarantee success for the above, but naturally assumes no legal liability of any sort. Let me know how you make out!

