

Flashband® FAQs

General Questions

Q: What's Flashband® and how does it work?

A: Flashband® connects local musicians to form one-time cover bands based on a theme and play in a fun showcase a month later!

Here's the gist: 7DC will announce a show theme and the jam and show dates. After you register for a performer slot, you'll play and form a one-time band at a meet & greet jam (takes place on a Sunday), rehearse with your band for a month, then play the showcase! Typically 40-50 hobbyist musicians participate. Bands have a month (4-5 weeks) to prepare a tight 15-minute set for a Saturday night show at great DC venues.

Here's why 2000+ DC area musicians love Flashband®:

- Meet & jam with local hobbyists like you (we're a community; no sketchy Craigslist)
- Play a sweet Saturday night gig at a sweet venue
- Skip worrying about show logistics, backline, and promo (we do that!)
- Get professional photos of you rocking out on stage (and videos if you want, too!)
- Build community and make new friends in the music scene
- Enjoy a unique and unforgettable experience among your peers

Q: Can I register even if I won't be at the Meet & Greet Jam?

A: No. If you won't be able to make it to the jam, please refrain from registering until after the jam when your registration will automatically route you onto the waitlist.

All participants MUST attend both the Meet & Greet Jam and the Showcase to join. If you sign up and are not able to make it to the Meet & Greet Jam, you will be bumped to the waitlist. We believe this policy improves the quality of everyone's experience and strengthens the community aspect of Flashband®. Thanks for your understanding!

Q: I registered but now it turns out I can't make it to the Meet & Greet Jam or otherwise need to drop out. Can I get a refund?

A: Here's our Cancellation Policy: You can get a full refund if you let the organizer know you are unable to attend by email (emily@7drumcity.com) if it's more than 48 hours in advance of the Meet & Greet Jam. Refunds will not be processed for those who reach out within 48 hours of the jam or after the jam.



Flashband® FAQs

Q: I'm on the waitlist. How does this work?

A: Before the date of the jam, if someone in your instrument/role has to drop, we will reach out to the waitlist via email to fill the slot. Waitlisters get priority in the order in which they registered, but you'll have to be able to come to the Sunday jam event.

If someone no-shows the day of the jam, we'll send out a text or call you to try and fill the spot ASAP, in humble hopes that you can drop everything and make it to the jam! Otherwise, waitlisters do not participate in the jam.

After the jam (where the bands are formed), there may still be an opportunity to come off the waitlist. If someone has to drop, we'll reach out to plug you into a band looking for someone in your instrument/role. If there's availability to add extra performers to the showcase, we'll give bands the email addresses and instruments/roles of folks on the waitlist and they will have the option to pull you off the waitlist to join them as an additional member. If no band adds you, you'll get credited to your 7DC Mindbody account or can get a refund upon request.

Q: Do I need to be vaccinated to participate in Flashband®?

A: Participants are expected to take every reasonable precaution to keep themselves and their bandmates safe, including limiting their potential exposure to Covid and other illness. Vaccination against Covid is preferred, and boosters are even better. But as of August 2022, we no longer require vaccination to participate in Flashband. However, to help ensure the safety of our participants and audiences, participants who test positive for Covid or have a Covid exposure will abstain from rehearsals and attending the studio until they test negative and/or after a week of isolation. Participants who test positive for Covid within a week of the showcase may be replaced with someone on our waitlist.

Q: Why do a theme at all? Wouldn't it be better just to let us play whatever we want?

A: Ever been to a theme party, and some people just showed up in plain clothes? What a bummer! Themes fuel creativity and are a big part of what make Flashband® a good time for the participants and exciting and marketable to audiences. Give it a shot and be creative, and we know you'll dig working within the theme.



Flashband® FAQs

Q: How does the Meet & Greet Jam work? How should I prepare?

A: The purpose of the jam is for participants to get together, get a feel for each other's styles, and decide who would be a good fit for their band. Participants are assigned to play in one of 9 different rooms for three set jam rotations, so that everyone plays with as many different participants as possible. At the end of the event, we bring all of the participants back together to mingle and decide who they'd like to play with to form bands. If any of that sounds confusing, don't sweat it! We'll explain everything at the beginning of the event to make sure you know how it works and answer any questions.

All rooms at 7DC are fully outfitted with amps, full drum kits, PA, microphones, etc. Musicians are only required to bring their instruments (except for keyboardists who may play in some of the rooms where we have keys set up.)

About a week out from the jam date, you'll receive an email with instructions and a list of three songs to learn for the jam. You can prepare by learning those and being ready to play them in the jam rooms. Once in the band rooms, folks will generally jam on those songs a bit and then play around with other songs.

Q: I already have a band. Can we all join Flashband® and just “pick” each other as bandmates?

A: No, that's not the idea. Flashband® is for individual performers to meet and form a one-time band to play the showcase.

Q: What's different about shows at The Pocket?

A: 7DrumCity's new in-house venue - The Pocket - is an intimate, 70-person venue located at our studio on North Capitol. As a smaller space, Pocket Flashbands offer performers the chance to play slightly longer sets to a rockin' crowd on 7DC's home turf, supported by our amazing in-house staff. These shows are typically 2.5 hours long on a weekday or weekend. We've had huge success with Pocket Showcases and bands love them!

Q: Do Flashband® organizers screen musicians for skill and experience level?

A: Nope. Here at Flashband® we are all about inclusivity and community, and that extends to everyone's musical skills. Everyone from first-time performers to seasoned stage veterans are welcome to participate. The Meet & Greet Jam will allow you to discover which participants are the best fit to form your band, whatever their skill level.



Flashband® FAQs

Q: Is there a way to make sure multiple bands don't perform the same song at the showcase?

A: Bands will list their sets in a shared document. If multiple bands list the same song, a Flashband® organizer will put the two bands in touch to resolve the situation in favor of one band performing the song (unless another compromise is absolutely necessary). There are plenty of songs out there, and we're always happy to help you find many great options to keep the show fresh and dynamic!

Q: How do I find out about the themes, dates, and when to register?

A: Flashband® news and updates are announced via our social media ([@Flashband®_dc](#)) and our 7DrumCity newsletter, which you can register for [here](#).

Q: What are the shows like?

A: Flashband® consistently puts on sold out shows at venues around DC! *You can check out photos from past showcases on our Facebook page [here](#)!*

Q: Can our band feature a guest artist who isn't part of Flashband®?

A: No, only registered participants can play in the Flashband® showcase. But, if you want someone from another band to sit-in for a song in your set, you can ask them! This can be fun if someone plays a specialized instrument that would add to a song (but there's no expectations for this and fully depends on willingness and availability).

Theme & Upcoming Showcase Questions

Q: Could you give some examples of songs that fit within the theme?

- "Imagine", John Lennon
- "Get Up, Stand Up", The Wailers
- "Fight the Power", Public Enemy
- "Long Walk to D.C.", The Staple Singers
- "Talkin' Bout a Revolution", Tracy Chapman
- "The Revolution Will not Be Televised", Gil Scott-Heron
- "Tear the Fascists Down", Woody Guthrie
- "People Have the Power", Patti Smith
- "For What It's Worth", Buffalo Springfield
- "You Don't Own Me", Lesley Gore
- "The Revolution Starts Now", Steve Earle
- "Which Side Are You On", Billy Bragg



Flashband® FAQs

- “Hurricane”, Bob Dylan
- “A Change Is Gonna Come”, Sam Cooke
- “My Generation”, The Who
- “Peace Train”, Yusuf / Cat Stevens
- “Redemption Song”, Bob Marley & The Wailers
- “Everyday People”, Sly and the Family Stone
- “Give the Anarchist a Cigarette”, Chumbawumba
- “Forever Half Mast”, Lucy Dacus
- “Fortunate Son”, CCR
- “We Will Rock You”, Queen
- “We Didn’t Start the Fire”, Billy Joel
- “Know Your Enemy”, Green Day
- “The Kids are Alt-Right”, Bad Religion
- “Sunday Bloody Sunday”, U2
- “Turn! Turn! Turn! (To Everything There is a Season”, The Byrds
- “American Idiot”, Green Day
- “I Am Woman”, Helen Reddy
- “Say It Loud: I’m Black and I’m Proud”, James Brown
- “Glory” Common & John Legend”
- “The General”, Dispatch
-Patti Smith, Bob Dylan, Nina Simone, NWA....

...Go out and find your own gems!

Q: Can my band play a song I/we wrote?

A: Absolutely! Creativity and originals are always encouraged. Flashband® showcases are typically themed shows so the song must be able to fit the theme. Up to one original is cool.

Q: Is the showcase an all-ages show?

A: Yes! Songbyrd is all ages.

