



This is the **new**, *official* Guide to Virtual NESI 2020

UPDATED on September 3, 2020.

We will deny the existence of any previous information that contradicts what you find here.
However, what is here may also be subject to change.



As many of you know by now, we have moved our annual gathering of free-reed players (and their enablers) online in this pandemic year. And as many of you have observed, it's not easy. This is an event run by a volunteer board and created by its participants. We are pedaling as fast as we can to figure out how to replicate as much of the live experience as we can but also considering how to take advantage of things an online event allows. You can attend in your jammies, for example, and it doesn't cost anything this year. But we ask for your patience as well as your enthusiastic participation as our problem-solving skills and plans evolve. This is an **important update** to the announcement document we sent out in June. Please read it carefully, as there are some things that have changed and been added. And yes, we are telling you things several times here so you don't miss anything you need.

If you have never been to a "live" NorthEast Squeeze-In, you should probably read the Supplement for First-Timers – sent with this doc via email and also posted on Si-Talk. It will help you understand why our virtual event is what it is and why you should come to our live event next year (imagine the sound of knocking on wood).

Important deadlines and dates (see details below)

- Virtual NESI 2020 will go live on our website by 7 pm on Friday, September 25.
- Poetry submissions (haiku and limerick) must be in by September 1.
- Concert submissions must be sent by September 10.
- Workshop offerings must be submitted by September 10.
- Workshop requests should be submitted well before September 10 if you want to have any hope for someone to make it happen.

Important links

- Main Squeeze-In website, go here: www.squeeze-in.org
- To submit a haiku or limerick to our poetry contest, send it here: haiku2020@squeeze-in.org or limerick2020@squeeze-in.org.
- To submit a concert video, upload to YouTube or some other video platform and send the link here: concertvideo2020@squeeze-in.org. Be sure to put *your name and the title* of the video in the subject line.
- To submit a link to a static (pre-recorded) workshop, send it here: staticworkshops2020@squeeze-in.org. Be sure to put *your name and the title* of the video in the subject line. You must also complete [this form](#).
- To offer a live/interactive workshop (via Zoom or other platform), complete this [form](#), which will automatically add your workshop to a [spreadsheet](#). that lists all of the interactive workshops offered to date.
- To request a workshop (after you have checked the interactive workshop [spreadsheet](#) and the [static \(pre-recorded\) workshop list](#) above), complete [this form](#). The sooner you complete it, the more likely it is that someone will grant your wish.
- *To get detailed instructions* from Stewart about making your video and accompanying thumbnail, go [here](#).

CONCERT

- You are invited to submit one song, tune, or short set of tunes, adhering to our usual concert limit of one performance per person. (If you are in "The Arkestra," that doesn't count.)
- Your video should be 5 minutes long or less, if at all possible; 8 minutes, including any

introductory commentary, is the absolute maximum duration.

- If we get an overwhelming number of videos, they will all be listed on the concert page, but we may need to simplify the presentation. Star billing will go to the videos that come in sooner rather than at the last minute. This page is a big job in itself – early submission helps.

Here's how to participate in the concert:

Create your timed (!) video and upload it to YouTube. Send the link (not the actual video) to concertvideo2020@squeeze-in.org. Be sure to put *your name and the title* of the video in the subject line. Along with the link information, include your name and the title of the song or tune. Put any background info in the YouTube description section, not in the email with the link. Concert links must be submitted **by September 10**. Stewart will prepare a virtual web page that consists of those links. All recordings must have been made in 2020. This web page will go live on Saturday, September 26.

How to upload your video to YouTube

- Sign on to YouTube.
- Click on your icon circle in the upper right corner.
- Click on “Upload Your Video”
- Select or “drag and drop” your video.
- Fill out details/Follow directions
- Important: Save as PUBLIC or UNLISTED.
- Share the link by email to appropriate person, or COPY the link and email it to them.

WORKSHOPS and other activities

Workshops can be *static* (pre-recorded) or *interactive* and done in real time (via Zoom or some other platform). Tune swaps, sessions, and sings should be interactive.

Static workshops should be YouTube videos or some similar video platform. Complete [this form](#). **Then also send the link** with your name and the title to Stewart at: staticworkshops2020@squeeze-in.org. Be sure to put *your name and the title* of the video in the subject line.

- Stewart will create a web page for static workshops that will go live on Friday, September 25. It will remain live through the weekend and for about the next four weeks. It will then be moved to a web page archive on our site that people will be able to access for all eternity or until you take the link down. It would be courteous to tell Stewart if you do take it down so he can remove the link. (A “404 Not Found” is so embarrassing!)
- If you want to provide additional information about your pre-recorded workshop (along with any links to sheet music), include it in your YouTube notes online, and you can also add it to [this form](#). Those notes will not appear on the web page but will be seen by people who look at that form to find out what is being offered.

Interactive Items

For a live interactive workshop, tune swap, session, or sing, complete [this form](#).

- The information you provide on that form (your name, title, platform, time, etc.) will be automatically added to a spreadsheet, sort of a virtual Big Board but just for interactive things.
- A link to that spreadsheet is [here](#). You may want to view it before you choose the day and time for your offering. Sarah and/or Bill Quern are happy to help with advice about platforms, security, or other issues: boxandstringmusic@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT: The submission deadline for all workshops is September 10. Between then and September 25, we will be creating the presentation web pages. For *static workshops*, that means your YouTube recording needs to be finished and uploaded by then (but will not go live as a link on our website until September 25). For *interactive workshops*, your information needs to be on the spreadsheet (above) by that time. People will contact you via email for the password and any other access information.

LIMERICK AND HAIKU COMPETITIONS

- You may submit up to two entries for each category in written form via email to

haiku2020@squeeze-in.org or limerick2020@squeeze-in.org

- All entries must follow standard limerick or haiku structure and refer to free-reeds in some way.
- The deadline for submissions is **September 1**.
- Winners will be notified by September 8 and asked to submit a video or audio file of themselves reading their deathless creation by September 15. Video is *strongly* preferred. You should send the link (when requested) to lynnh1947@gmail.com. If winners do not submit their own audio or video, Lynn will make a recording, but we would greatly prefer to have the winners do it themselves.
- There will be prizes for the 2 winners, of course.

SI-TALK

This is the mail-list discussion group that we encourage people to join. It has close to 100 members and serves as a general bulletin board, tune-sharing, help request site, and – of course – a place for news about the Squeeze-In, not only in this year of virtuality but always. Information about how to join Si-Talk is [here](#).

THE PROCESSIONAL

It's been our custom for many years to walk from the dining room to the concert space on Saturday night in a ragged but enthusiastic procession. The tune has varied over time, but the current one is the Appelbo Ganglat. One of our participants, Adlai, is organizing a virtual group procession and is looking for participants. More information about this will be posted on our website and can be found [here](#).

VIRTUAL BUTTONS

Another custom of long-standing is the distribution of buttons for each year's event, complete with some sort of free-reed related art. Tony is going to make paper "buttons" that we will email this year to everyone on our contact list sometime before the event weekend. You can paste it over last year's button, tape it to your shirt while you make your concert video, or just enjoy as a bit more virtual reality.

How much of VNESI 2020 will be available to the general public?

Everything will be online and open to the world at large except for things that are live in real time. Those things include interactive workshops, sessions, jams, and sings. Anything of that sort will require a password or other access information (depending on the leaders' choice of platform). It's up to the leaders as to who gets in. So you should be sure to polish up your party piece for the concert – the whole world may be watching.

Donations

Although we are a non-profit, we do have some money left from NESI events in most years. All direct costs for this volunteer-run event will get paid out of that bank account. If you want to make a donation in response to the fun you will have had at VNESI, please choose another good cause. Many formerly-working musicians are struggling to survive the pandemic shut-down through their websites that ask for support. The Country Dance and Song Society could run no camps this year but has paid its employees as best it can. They would like a donation; our membership in CDSS provides us with services that make NESI more affordable. There are many charities, food banks, and political organizations that need your help. Think of VNESI, but send them something to one of them if you can.

We hope this answers all of your questions and inspires you to participate in VNESI 2020. And, if you haven't already done so, please take a few minutes to respond to our quick, 3-question [survey](#). Thank you! We are looking forward to seeing you in person at Chimney Corners in 2021.