



Performer Information

The Most Important Things You Need To Know

- This is an application to be a *volunteer* performer

Other than headliners, this is an all-volunteer event.

To be considered as a headliner for a future festival, you or your agent may contact us through our [WEBSITE](#).

- The Tucson Folk Festival is an *acoustic* event

We use a very broad definition of “Folk” music. We seek to include performers who bring variety and creativity to the Festival.

In addition to traditional folk music, we welcome Americana, blues, indie, bluegrass/newgrass, mariachi, tejano, yaqui, walla and other ethnic, world and innovative acoustic music forms.

Instrument rules:

➤ Allowances:

- Electric bass. A bass amp will be provided at each stage.
- Electronic pianos - without special effects.
- Pre-assembled pedal boards for guitars with pick-ups
- Pedal steel guitars and small harmonica amps.
- Percussion of all kinds, including small drum kits

Performer Information (continued)

- Restrictions:
 - Large drum kits due to limited stage space and set-up time.
 - Drum machines and backing tracks of any kind.
 - Multiple guitar pedal set-ups due to limited set-up time.
- Exceptions:
 - Requests can be made in your application.

General Festival Information

- The 33rd Annual Tucson Folk Festival will take place on **Saturday, May 5th & Sunday, May 6th, 2018**
- Festival activities are centered in and around El Presidio Park in Downtown Tucson: [EL PRESIDIO PARK](#).
- Additional stages are located within a short walking distance of the park.
- Sets are 25 minutes long on a half-hour schedule.
Extended set-up time will cut into your performance time.
- A professional sound system will be provided at each stage.
 - Microphones will be available for vocals and acoustic instruments
 - Digital Interfaces (DIs) will be available for instruments with pickups
 - If you need music stands, those are up to you.

Application Information

- All applications must be submitted online using the form provided on the Festival website. There are no paper application forms. [APPLY HERE](#)
- Membership in TKMA is not required to apply or perform. We encourage everyone to take the opportunity to support the Festival by becoming TKMA members: [TKMA MEMBERSHIP](#)

Application Information (continued)

Important Dates:

- October 19, 2017 Free application period opens
(No fee through November 30, 2017)

- December 1, 2017 \$25 Fee/Non-refundable for late-application submissions

- January 7, 2018 Performer application period closes.
(No applications will be considered after this date)

- February 1, 2018 Performer selections and schedule announced.

Performance Demos

- All performance demos must be submitted electronically in compressed format (MP3, WMA, AAC, FLAC or ALAC) by uploading to our server. The online application form will lead you through the process.
 - CDs or Tapes are not accepted. CD files or tape recordings must be converted to one of these formats prior to uploading.
 - We do not keep any submittals from prior years.

- Bands should identify both “core performers” and “side performers”:
 - This also helps us avoid scheduling two acts at the same time when they do have core performers in common.
 - Side performers are welcome to sit in with as many acts as they wish. However, we can't guarantee to schedule acts so that every side performer can join every act he or she wants to.
 - Applications by bands with the same core performers performing similar material under different names will not be accepted.

Performance Demos (continued)

- Your demo tracks should reflect the way your performance will sound at the festival, with similar members and instrumentation.
 - Professional recordings are not required, but a poor-sounding demo can hurt your chances if it distracts from what you really sound like.
 - Electric and/or over-produced recordings are discouraged.
- We try to achieve a balance between original material, covers of less-well-known songs and unique arrangements of popular standards.
 - Individual acts may focus on any one or more of these.
- Submit only 3 tracks.
- Select pieces that show off your strengths.
- Avoid talking introductions and songs with long musical introductions.

Selection Process

- Completed applications and demos are considered by an experienced selection committee, who will make the final decisions.
- Our goal is to create a diverse program of high-quality music including both new performers and perennial favorites.

Stage and Schedule Assignments

- We cannot honor requests to perform on a particular stage or at a particular time. To be fair to all performers, we try to put returning acts on different stages than they have performed on in the past.

Additional Information

Check-In:

- Initial check-in is required for all groups at the TKMA Kitchen Store Tent at El Presidio Park, just east of the Plaza Stage. All performing groups will receive a Welcome Packet!

CD Sales:

- Performers may sell their CDs on consignment through the TKMA Kitchen Store at El Presidio Park. CDs are typically priced at \$15, but you can price yours as you wish.
 - TKMA commission on CDs is \$2 per CD (any price).
 - TKMA commission on download cards is \$1 per \$5 card and \$2 per \$10 or higher card.
 - Further details on consignment will be sent after selection notification.

Volunteer Activities:

- If you are interested in volunteering at the Festival (in addition to performing) or participating in any of our pre-festival activities, [CONTACT US HERE](#)
- Volunteer jobs include: working in the TKMA Kitchen Store, Beer Garden, Water/Soda and Raffle Booths, Volunteer Tent, Children's Area and/or acting as Emcee, Stage Manager/Asst. Manager and/or general roustabout! Festival volunteer opportunities will be posted on our website after January 2018!
- Pre-festival volunteer opportunities include helping with fundraisers, publicity, selling program ads, soliciting sponsorships and vendors and lining up raffle prizes.

The Tucson Kitchen Musicians Association (TKMA) began as a group of friends gathering regularly on Friday nights for potlucks and jammin' in the kitchen. TKMA has grown into an all-volunteer operated 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; established in 1986. Our mission is to further public awareness and interest in acoustic music and other folk arts by promoting and producing the annual Tucson Folk Festival; one of the oldest FREE folk music festivals in the country! We invite you to visit our website: www.tucsonfolkfest.org and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TucsonFolkFest>
