



Stefan George Memorial Songwriting Competition 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.

(SONGWRITING COMPETITION AWARDS: See Page 4)

Songwriting Competition Information (continued)

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

- 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, including the Songwriting Competition, 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](#)
 - Please use the Songwriting Competition Application
 - If you would like to also be apply as a Festival Performer, separate from the Songwriting Competition, please read the Performer Information fact sheet, along with submitting a Performer Application (*No fee through November 30, 2017; then, \$25 non-refundable fee applied up to January 7, 2018 deadline.*)
- 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](#)

Important Dates:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| October 19, 2017 | Songwriting Competition application period opens <ul style="list-style-type: none">● \$25 Non-refundable Application Fee <u>required</u>● Online payment is recommended● Checks must be postmarked by January 7, 2018● Make checks out to: Tucson Kitchen Musicians Association |
| January 7, 2018 | Performer application period closes. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● No applications will be considered after this date) |
| February 1, 2018 | Songwriting Competition Finalists announced |
| March 5, 2018 | Deadline for Finalists commitment to participate |
| May 5, 2018 | Songwriting Competition Finals at Festival
Noon: Finals Begin
6:00 p.m. Winner performs on Plaza Stage |

Songwriting Competition

The Tucson Folk Festival Songwriting Competition is open to anyone with the following exceptions:

- Paid performers at the 32nd Annual Tucson Folk Festival
- Artists that are under contract with a major record label
- First-place winners from any prior year

Finals will be held at the Festival on Saturday, May 5th, 2018

Songwriting Competition Awards

- First Place:
 - 25-minute Set on the Plaza Stage, May 5, 2018, 6 pm
 - \$100 Cash Award
 - FREE Registration 2019 Folk Alliance International Conf.
 - 3 FREE Song Submissions to Passport to Nashville program
- Second Place:
 - \$50 Cash Award
 - Free Instrument from Bookman's Entertainment Exchange

Songwriting Demos

- Your demo must include 2 original songs that have not been previously recorded by you on a major label. If selected as a Finalist, you are not required to perform the same songs.
- Time limit is a total of 8 minutes for the two songs.
- All Songwriting 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.
- All preliminary-round judging decisions are final.

Rules for Finalists

- 10 entrants will be chosen for the finals.
- Each Finalist must perform 2 original songs.
 - They do **not** have to be the same ones that were sent as demos
 - However, they must **total** no more than 8 minutes
- The only instruments allowed are those that the performer(s) can carry on stage themselves (see above for instrument rules).
- Each contestant can have 1 accompanist. The accompanist cannot be a paid entertainer at the Tucson Folk Festival.
- If a Finalist is unable to attend, the position will be offered to an alternate.

Finalist Judging

- The judges for the final round may include fellow musicians, persons involved in the music industry, current festival headliners and / or past contest winners.
- Songs are judged on:
 - Overall Quality
 - Originality and Uniqueness
 - Craftsmanship and Song Structure
 - Song Structure
 - Arrangement
 - Talent and Stage Presence

Additional Information

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>
