



A production of the Tucson Kitchen Musicians Association

The TKMA-Stefan George Memorial Songwriting Competition

Songwriting Competition Important Facts

Hello fellow songwriters, I sincerely encourage you to enter our Songwriter Competition. It is a great opportunity to advance your songwriting knowledge, hone your skills and be recognized for your work. Here is a quick breakdown of the important information you will need to enter.

The competition is an acoustic instrument music event. It is open to the public. All ages and folk music styles are welcome to apply EXCEPT:

- Paid performers at this year's Annual Tucson Folk Festival
- Artists that are under contract with a major record label
- First-place winners from previous Tucson Folk Festival Songwriting Competitions

All applications will be reviewed by a group of music professionals, resulting in the selection of a group of 10 finalists and 3 alternates. The finalists will then move on to the Live Performance part of the competition, where the 1st, 2nd & 3rd place positions will be awarded prizes and recognized at the Tucson Folk Festival.

Only original songs are eligible for this competition. If you have a co-writer(s) whom will not be performing with you – they must provide TKMA a letter giving their permission for you to perform without them and accept on their behalf, any prizes awarded to your co-written songs in this competition.

Songs must be appropriate and suitable for a family-style Folk Festival.

You must be able to provide an mp3 or wav recording of two original songs (phone or home recordings are accepted). Professional recording opportunities are also available at discount prices. Let us know if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity and we will put you in contact with participating studios. Please take-a-look at the “Sound Recording Rules” below for a more detailed explanation of the recording and submission rules.

You must also be willing to perform your songs in a live performance setting. You will perform your songs at the Tucson Folk Festival before a live audience and a panel of music performance judges. The first-place winner will also perform a 25-minute set on the Headliner Stage - the same day as the competition.

If you are chosen as a finalist - you may perform solo or with a maximum of two accompanists on stage with you. Your accompanist may not be paid entertainers of the Tucson Folk Festival.

Judging decisions are final. If for any reason, a finalist is unable to attend the Live Performance portion of the competition, the judges will replace the finalist with an alternate pick. The Judges alternate pick must then be approved by the TKMA/Tucson Folk Festival performer coordinator.

Live Performance Musical Instrument Allowances

All “hand-carry sized” acoustic musical instruments are allowed in the competition. In addition to hand-carry sized instruments, electric basses, electronic pianos, pre-assembled pedal boards, pedal steel guitars small harmonica amps, percussion instruments of all kinds, including small drum kits are also allowed.

Live Performance Musical Instrument Restrictions

Large drum kits, drum machines, backing tracks, vocal harmonizers, and multiple guitar pedal set-ups.

Live Performance Instrument Exceptions

Exceptions may be granted on an individual basis – please email Ted Ramirez at ted@tedramirez.com if you have a question about an instrument not listed above.

Live Performance Setup Guidelines

There is very limited setup time during the live performance portion of the competition - 2 minutes is the standard time allotted to each performer for setup.

Is Your Music “Folk Music”?

We define folk music as music played on hand-held and hand-carry sized acoustic instruments, e.g., guitars, vihuelas, banjos, mandolins, jarana, gitaron, brass instruments, standup bass, fiddles, flutes, accordions, bongos, djembes, congas, the list goes on... If your instrument is found in Old or New World music styles which include, European Ballads, American folk & blues, indie folk, bluegrass, cajun, new-rass, waila, chicken scratch, Mexican folk music e.g. mariachi, Veracruzano, corridos & boleros, South American folk, Celtic folk, flamenco, Native American flute, or cowboy ballads, you are a folk musician by our definition. If your original music was influenced by any of these styles – your original music is welcome to apply as well.

General Information

The 34rd Annual Tucson Folk Festival will take place on:
Saturday April 6th & Sunday April 7th, 2019.

The Songwriting Competition will be held **Saturday April 6th** at the Wildflower Stage, location and time to be announced.

Live Performance information will be provided in detail to all finalists well in advance of their performance.

A professional sound system with sound engineer and covered stage is provided. The stage will have D.I. Boxes, Vocal and instrument Mics, and Monitors. We do not provide instrument stands, or other special performance equipment.

We are happy to discuss individual needs and will do our best to help you whenever possible.

Application Information

All applications must be submitted online, using the form provided. [APPLY HERE](#)

There is a \$25.00 non-refundable application fee for all submissions.

Important Dates

October	1,	2018	Application acceptance opens
January	1,	2019	Application acceptance closes
February	1,	2019	Songwriting Contest Finalists announced
February	15,	2019	Deadline for Finalist commitment to attend
April	6,	2019	Songwriting Competition Finals - Live Performances on the Wildflower Stage

Prizes

First Place:

25-minute set on a TKMA Headliner Stage – this will be on Saturday evening
\$100 cash

Second Place:

\$50 cash

Third Place:

TKMA Tee Shirt and Cap

Songwriting Demos and Recordings

Uploaded recordings must be in mp3 type format. Cds and tapes are not accepted. Please upload 2 original songs. These songs must not be from a previous release from any major label.

Finalists will be allowed to perform the songs submitted on the uploaded demos or may perform any new or different original song for the Live Performance part of the competition, but in either case all TKMA rules and guidelines apply.

A Finalist's Live Performance time will be limited to 10 minutes on stage. This is done to help maximize the greatest number of finalists for this event. This is generally enough time for a quick instrument setup and the performance of two songs with short introductions. No sound check is possible. This procedure will be addressed and coordinated closely with each individual songwriter to ensure they have enough time to present their music.

Judges

The selection of Judges may include: fellow musicians, persons involved in the music industry, festival headliners, past contest winners, local poets, music scholars, writers and recording engineers.

Submitted Songs are Judged on:

Originality & Authenticity
Melody, harmony, and rhythmic quality
Artists emotional commitment

Please note: The recording quality is not a part of the judging

Your Live performance is judged on:

All listed in the category above and
Stage presence, Confidence, Talent,
Grace under pressure, Preparedness, Audience connection

CD Sales

Songwriting Contest Finalists may sell their CDs on consignment through the TKMA Kitchen Store and 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

Festival Performances

If you would like to be Festival Performer, separate and apart from the Songwriting Competition, please complete and submit a separate "Folk Festival Performer Application" found on this site. 3 song demos in mp3 format are required and can be the same or different from your Songwriter Contest demos.

Early Performer applications are free until November 7, 2018, after which there is a separate non-refundable application fee of \$25.00 for late applicants. Performer application acceptance closes December 15, 2018.

Remember you are not required to be a TKMA Member to apply for the Songwriter Competition or be a Performer, but we encourage you to become a Member – it is a great way to support our festival. To become a Member, please use the “Click Here” button on the left margin of our homepage, www.tucsonfolkfest.org, or email to membership@tucsonfolkfest.org.

Volunteer Activities

Volunteer positions include selling Tee-shirts, beer, soda, raffle tickets, becoming an emcee, or stage manager and of course - general roustabout.

Pre-festival volunteer opportunities include: membership building, helping with fundraisers, publicity, selling program ads, soliciting sponsorships, lining up raffle prizes, website management, art projects, program creation and event coordinators.

If you are interested in becoming a Festival Volunteer, please go to our webpage www.tucsonfolkfest.org, click on Contact Us/Email Us in the upper right. On the Contact page, under Please choose who you want to email*, select Volunteer Coordinator, then complete and Submit the email form.