



# TUCSON FOLK FESTIVAL

**March 31 – April 2, 2023**

A production of the Tucson Kitchen Musicians Association

## PERFORMER INFORMATION FACT SHEET

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## THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- This is an application to be a **volunteer** performer
  - Other than Featured Performer acts, this is an all-volunteer event.
  - To be considered as a Featured Performer at a future festival, you or your agent may contact us through our [WEBSITE](#).
- The Tucson Folk Festival is an **acoustic-oriented** 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, Celtic, Indie, Bluegrass, Newgrass, Mariachi, Tejano, Yaqui, Waila and other ethnic, world and innovative acoustic music forms.
- **Electronic stereo recorded file.** Festival acts will have the option of having their performance recorded live. Electronic recordings will be available as a DIGITAL DOWNLOAD after the Festival. Further information will be provided to accepted acts.

# GENERAL FESTIVAL INFORMATION

- The 38th Annual Tucson Folk Festival will take place on Friday, March 31, Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> & Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 (Festival Days)
- The Stefan George Memorial Songwriting Competition will be held Friday, March 31. Saturday and Sunday, April 1-2 Festival activities are centered in and around **Jacome Plaza Park**, surrounding the Joel D. Valdez Main Library in Downtown Tucson:

[Jacome Plaza Info and Area Map](#) (hotlink)

- Additional stages are located within a short walking distance of the park.

[2022 Festival Site Map](#) (hotlink)

2023 site map will be updated when available

- Selected Performer Sets will be 25 minutes long with a 5 minute changeover (half-hour schedule)
  - Extended set-up time will cut into *your* performance time.
- **A professional sound system and engineer 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
  - Performers provide their own music stands if needed.

# APPLICATION INFORMATION

- All applications must be submitted online using the form provided on the Festival website. There are no paper application forms.
- For online application access: [APPLY HERE](#) (hotlink)
- Please read through the rest of this Fact Sheet before proceeding - Important info follows.

- If you are also applying for the Stefan George Memorial Songwriting Competition, a separate application is required, go here:

[Songwriting Competition Application Information](#) (hotlink)

- Membership in TKMA is not required to apply or perform. We encourage everyone to take the opportunity to support the Festival by becoming a TKMA member: [TKMA Membership Info](#) (hotlink).

**Ballad Tree:** A tradition here and at other festivals, the Ballad Tree offers musicians an informal setting to present songs in a round robin format (song circle). It could be a tune you just wrote or a song you learned from your grandfather 40 years ago. This year, the Ballad Tree will be open both Saturday and Sunday between 1 and 4 p.m.

- The Ballad Tree welcomes beginners and master players – we encourage all acoustic instrument players, singers, poets, storytellers and listeners to stop by and share in our Song Circle. No signups are required, just come on over with your instruments. All attendees are welcome.

**Workshops:** Sharing your knowledge with others makes the festival even more rewarding. If you have a topic you would like to teach in a 60-90 minute workshop, enter your topic in the field under **Other Opportunities** and we will contact you. All attendees are welcome.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **October 10, 2022** Free application period opens  
(*Fee is waived through **October 31, 2021***)
- **November 1, 2022** \$25 Application Fee/Non-refundable
- **November 15, 2022** Performer application period closes at 11:59 PM  
(No applications will be considered after this date)
- **January 1, 2023** Performer selections and schedule announced
- **January 15, 2023** Performer deadline for confirmation back to TKMA

# INSTRUMENT RULES

## ● **Allowances:**

- ✓ Acoustic Instruments of all kinds
- ✓ Electric bass. A bass amp will be provided at each stage
- ✓ Electronic pianos - without special effects.
- ✓ Pre-assembled pedal boards for instruments 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 instrument pedal set-ups due to limited set-up time

## ● **Exceptions:**

- ✓ Requests can be made in your application

# SELECTION PROCESS

- **Completed applications and demos are considered by an experienced selection committee made up of 5 – 10 rotating community members** that include a mix of Longtime Festival Supporters, Board Members, Professional and Amateur Musicians, Volunteers, and TKMA Members who collectively make the final selection decisions by consensus.
- **The most important factor in our selection process are your audio submissions.** Demos should reflect the group as they will perform at the festival to the best of your abilities. Applications are judged 'blind' in a group listening session and each act is considered thoughtfully and respectfully. Additional aspects of the application (Videos, Biography, Accomplishments, Discography, etc) are used to facilitate decision-making in the case of ties and aid in scheduling.
- **Our goal is to create a diverse program of high-quality musical acts, including both new performers and perennial favorites.**

# PERFORMANCE DEMO SUBMITTALS

- The Audio Demo submittals form the most important part of our application selection process.
- All performance demos must be submitted electronically in compressed format (MP3, WMA) 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 MP3 format prior to uploading. Contact us for assistance if needed
- Acts are also encouraged to add links to a video (e.g. YouTube, Vimeo). Videos will be considered in selection and scheduling decisions.
  - DO NOT UPLOAD VIDEO FILES! SUBMIT URL LINKS ONLY
- Guides to audio and video recordings are provided here:
  - [Audio Recording Guide](#)
  - [Video Recording Guide](#)
- **We do not keep any submittals from prior years**
- Bands should identify both “core performers” and “side performers”. This helps us avoid scheduling two acts at the same time when they 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.
- Your demo tracks should reflect the way your performance will sound at the festival with similar members, number of members and instrumentation. Soloists should refrain from submitting recordings that add backup musicians that will not perform at the festival.

- Professional recordings are not required but a poor-sounding demo can hurt your chances of selection if the sound quality distracts from what you really sound like. Even clear, simple phone recordings can be fine. Supplementing with video can help show your talent.
- Electric and/or over-produced recordings are discouraged. We want to hear how you can sound when you perform live, not in a controlled studio environment with added musicians and effects.
- For the Festival line-up, 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.
- The Festival also strives to select an overall variety and balance in our lineup. This includes considering new performers and perennial favorites, as well as different cultural and musical traditions reflective of our diverse Tucson location.
- **Submit only 3 tracks**
  - Select pieces that show off your strengths and diversity
  - **Avoid talking or long musical introductions**

## **STAGE AND SCHEDULE ASSIGNMENTS**

**We cannot honor requests to perform on a particular stage or at a particular time. Featured Performers are by invitation only.**

## **Pre-Festival Information**

**At least a month before the event, all selected performers will receive a festival advance email with parking maps, hotel suggestions, site maps, contacts, check-in information and all the other details you will need for a successful weekend at the Festival. Here are a few preliminary items.**

### **CD Sales:**

- Performers may sell their CDs on consignment through the TKMA Kitchen Store at Jacome Plaza. 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.
- Performers may also sell CD's at the TKMA table near their stage before, during or after their set, provided the performer or a designee is at the table. **TKMA Table Volunteers will NOT handle money for your CD's** other than at the Kitchen Store in Jacome Plaza (see above).

## Volunteer Activities:

- If you are interested in volunteering at the Festival (in addition to performing) or participating in any of our pre-festival activities:
  - **Please Sign Up 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! Volunteer opportunities will be emailed out and posted on our website after January.
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- 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) is 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! URL [www.tucsonfolkfest.org](http://www.tucsonfolkfest.org) and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TucsonFolkFest>*