



TUCSON FOLK FESTIVAL

41st Annual

April 10-12, 2026

A production of the Tucson Kitchen Musicians Association

PERFORMER INFORMATION FACT SHEET

**PLEASE READ THIS BEFORE
STARTING AN APPLICATION**

THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- This is an application to be a **volunteer Performer**
 - Other than Featured Headliners, this is a volunteer (non paying) event.
 - To be considered as a Featured Headliner at a future festival, you or your agent may contact us through our [WEBSITE](#).
 - If you are also applying for the **Stefan George Memorial Songwriting Competition**, a separate application is required, go here:
 - [Songwriting Competition Application Information](#) (hotlink)
- The Tucson Folk Festival is an **acoustic-oriented** event
 - We use a very broad definition of “Folk” music. Electric instruments may be used, but without excessive electronic effects.
 - We seek to include performers who bring variety and creativity to the Festival. In addition to traditional American and International folk music, we welcome Americana, Blues, Indie, Bluegrass, Newgrass, Celtic, 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. A FREE DIGITAL DOWNLOAD will be provide after the Festival. Further information will be provided to accepted acts

GENERAL FESTIVAL INFORMATION

- The **41th Annual** Tucson Folk Festival will take place on **Friday, April 10, Saturday, April 11 & Sunday, April 12, 2025**
- The Stefan George Memorial Songwriting Competition will be held Friday, April 10 on the **Jacome Plaza Stage**.
- Festival Performer activities on Saturday and Sunday, April 11-12 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.

Festival Site Map (hotlink)

- Performer Sets will generally be 25 minutes long with a 5 minute changeover (half-hour schedule). Sets on the Plaza Stage and a few select sets on the other stages will be 45 minutes long with a 15 minute changeover.
 - 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 acoustic instruments with pickups
 - Microphones will be provided for on-stage amplifiers.
 - 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.
- **Please read through the rest of this Fact Sheet before initiating your Application. Important info follows.**
- 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).
- **New for 2026 Festival: There will be no Performer Application Fee for applications submitted before Oct. 31, 2025 at 11:59 pm.**
 - A non-refundable late fee of \$35 will be required for applications submitted between Nov. 1 and November 15, 2025 at 11:59 pm.
 - No Applications will be accepted after that date.

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 45 - 60 minute workshop, enter your topic in the Application Field labeled **[Other Opportunities]** and we will contact you. All attendees are welcome.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **October 1, 2025** Application period opens
- **November 1, 2025** Late application period opens
\$30 Late Fee applied
- **November 15, 2025** Performer application period closes at 11:59 PM
(No applications will be considered after this date)
- **January 1, 2025** Performer selections and schedule announced
- **January 15, 2025** 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 (we provide a drum backline on several stages)
- ✓ 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 ACT as they will perform at the festival to the best of your abilities. Applications are judged 'blind' 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 and Video Demo submittals form the basis of our application selection process.
- All Audio performance demos must be submitted electronically in compressed format (MP3) by uploading to our server. The online application form will lead you through the process. **Audio performances MUST be representative of how you will sound LIVE, with only the musicians you plan to include on stage.**
 - THE SELECTION COMMITTEE PREFERS THAT YOU DO NOT SUBMIT PRODUCED STUDIO RECORDINGS, ESPECIALLY IF THEY INCLUDE MUSICIANS WHO WILL NOT BE WITH YOU.
 - NOTE THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR SOLO/DUO ACTS. Multi-instrument “band” recordings of Acts intending to perform as Solo or Duo, or studio recordings with electronic effects **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR SOUND AS YOU INTEND TO PERFORM.**
- CDs or Tapes are not accepted. CD files, Youtube videos or tape recordings must be converted to MP3 Audio format prior to uploading. Alternate Audio or Video formats can be converted to MP3 Audio using this link: <https://www.freeconvert.com/mp3-converter>. Youtube URLs can be converted to MP3 via this link: <https://mp3-convert.org/mp3-youtube/>
- Contact us for additional assistance if needed.
- Acts are STRONGLY encouraged to also submit video URL links of recent live performances. Videos will be considered in selection and scheduling decisions. Video performance demos must be submitted as a URL link to an external server (YouTube, Vimeo, Google Docs, etc.)
 - **DO NOT UPLOAD VIDEO FILES! SUBMIT URL LINKS ONLY**
- Guides to producing live 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. Live video submissions can also help show your talent.
- Electronic-modified and/or over-produced recordings will NOT be accepted. We want to hear how you 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 Audio tracks**
 - Select pieces that show off your strengths and diversity
 - **Avoid extended talking or long musical introductions**

STAGE AND SCHEDULE ASSIGNMENTS

We cannot honor requests to perform on a particular stage or at a particular time.

INITIATE APPLICATION

If you agree to instructions above, you can initiate an application now:

[**APPLY HERE**](#) (hotlink)

Additional 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.
- 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 and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TucsonFolkFest>