



41ST ANNUAL TUCSON FOLK FESTIVAL

April 10 – 12, 2026

A production of the Tucson Kitchen Musicians Association

The Roger Mikulas Young Artists Showcase

Fact Sheet

Contact: Ron Pandy, Young Artist Coordinator, ronpandy@gmail.com

The Tucson Kitchen Musicians Association (TKMA) invites all musicians, who will be **18 years of age** or younger at the time of the Tucson Folk Festival, to apply to perform a scheduled set of 5 to 25 minutes for the **Roger Mikulas Young Artists Showcase** at this year's Festival. TKMA has offered this opportunity to young musicians each year since 2007.

The Young Artists Showcase will take place on **Saturday, April 11th and Sunday, April 12th, 2025.**

The Two Things Everybody Needs To Know (please read this carefully)

- This is an application to be a *volunteer* performer.
- The Tucson Folk Festival is an acoustic-oriented folk music 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, waila and other ethnic, world and innovative acoustic music forms. Electric bass is OK. Electronic pianos are OK (played as a straight piano, without special effects), as are pedal steel guitars and small harmonica amps. Percussion of all kinds is welcome and small drum kits are fine (large kits are allowed but discouraged because of stage space and limited set-up time). Drum machines and backing tracks of any kind are not allowed. Pedal setups for guitar players are **strongly** discouraged.

General Festival Information

1. The **41st Tucson Folk Festival** will take place on **Friday, April 10, Saturday, April 11, and Sunday, April 12, 2025.**
2. The center of Festival activity, including the Plaza Stage, Festival Kitchen Store and Vendors area, will be held in Jacome Plaza and surrounding area of the Joel Valquez Main Library in Downtown Tucson. Additional stages are located within walking distance.
3. Sets are 5 to 25 minutes long. Please note if you bring a lot of instruments, the set-up time will cut into your time with the audience.

4. We provide a complete sound system with plenty of DI's for your instruments that have pickups and mics for those that don't, and of course mics for your vocals. We also provide a bass amp at each stage so you don't have to haul one around. If you need music stands, those are up to you.

Application Information

- Applications will be available on our website on October 1:

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

- **NOTE:** After providing and confirming your email address, you will gain access to the Application Form. At the top you will see two red “X”s indicating (1) incomplete Contact Information and (2) Incomplete Demo Uploads.
 - As these steps are completed, the red “X”s will change to green “V” s. A red X indicates what is Not Complete. When you see 2 green “V” s, we have your complete application.
- The deadline for Young Artists applications is **January 15**. We will notify applicants of their selection status **February 15**.
- All applications must be submitted online using the form on our web site. There are no paper application forms.
- There is **no fee** to apply as a Young Artist.

We encourage you to upload your demo tracks to our server as mp3 files, as this

is easiest for our selection committee to work with (the online application form will lead you through the process). Submissions can be professionally produced or as simple as the voice recorder on your phone. Alternately you can provide a link to a YouTube video (do not upload video files). If you choose to mail a CD, we must receive it no later than one week after the application deadline. Demo CDs mailed to us will not be return.

Our mailing address is:

Tucson Kitchen Musicians Association

Attn: Young Artists Showcase

PO Box 41054

Tucson, AZ 85717

Roger Mikulas Young Artists Showcase

- The Young Artists Showcase is for performers who will be **18 years of age or younger** at the time of the Festival.
- The Young Artists Showcase is a block of time set aside for young performers at the **Wildflower Stage** at the Joel Valquez Main Library
- Adults are not allowed to perform with the Young Artists, except as back- up. Groups with adults are encouraged to apply as regular performers at the Tucson Folk Festival.

Tips for Demo Submissions

- Don't include more than 3 pieces (mp3 files only).
- **Please delete all talking from your submissions**, as the selection committee uses blind listening, so breaking this rule interferes with the integrity of the process.
- Select pieces that show off your strengths.
- It is recommended to not include songs that take a long time to get rolling.
- Electric and/or over-produced CDs are not recommended as the selection committee would like to hear your group as it will sound at the festival.

Other

Performers may sell their CDs on consignment through the Festival Kitchen Store with TKMA keeping \$2 of total sales as commission. CDs are typically priced at \$15, but you can price yours as you wish. TKMA commission on download cards is \$1 per \$5 card and \$2 per \$10 or higher card.

Questions

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