



A production of the Tucson Kitchen Musicians Association

Performer Information Fact Sheet

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, waila and other ethnic, world and innovative acoustic music forms.

- **FREE electronic stereo recorded file.** Festival acts will have the option of having their performance recorded live. Electronic recordings will be available for FREE DOWNLOAD, along with the further option of receiving an upgrade master-mixed recording for a small fee (donation) to TKMA FOLK FESTIVAL. Further information will be provided to accepted acts.

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 35rd Annual Tucson Folk Festival will take place on **Friday, April 3rd, Saturday, April 4th & Sunday, April 5th, 2020**
- Festival activities are centered in and around **Jacome Plaza Park**, surrounding the Joel D. Valdez Main Library in Downtown Tucson:
 - <https://www.downtowntucson.org/locations/jacome-plaza/>
- Additional stages are located within a short walking distance of the park. Locations to be announced.
- 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.
- For online application access: **[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 three red “X”s indicating (1) incomplete Contact Information, (2) Unpaid Application Fee and (3) Incomplete Demo Uploads.

- As these 3 steps are completed, the red “X”s will change to green “✓” s.
 - A red X indicates what is Not Complete.
 - When you see 3 green “✓” s, we have your complete application.
- Please read through the rest of this Fact Sheet before proceeding. Important info follows.

- If you are also applying for the **Songwriting Contest**, a separate application is required, go here: [Songwriting Contest Application](#)
- 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](#) .

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

- **November 1, 2019** Free application period opens
(Fee is waived through December 1, 2019)
- **December 1, 2019** \$25 Fee/Non-refundable for late submissions
- **December 15, 2019** Performer application period closes
(No applications will be considered after this date)
- **December 22, 2019** Performer selections and schedule announced
- **January 5, 2020** Performer deadline for confirmation back to TKMA

Performance Demo Submittals

- 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 or WMA formats prior to uploading.
- In addition, you can also provide a link to a video (e.g. YouTube).
 - DO NOT UPLOAD VIDEO FILES.
- **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 do not represent their solo performance.
- Professional recordings are not required, even phone recordings can be fine, but a poor-sounding demo can hurt your chances if it distracts from what you really sound like.
- Electric and/or over-produced recordings are discouraged (we need to hear how you will sound live, not in a studio with added musicians and effects).

- 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.
- Submit only 3 tracks
 - Select pieces that show off your strengths and diversity
 - **Avoid talking introductions and long musical introductions**

Selection Process

- Completed applications and demos are considered by an experienced selection committee, who will make the final decisions.
- **Our goal is to create a diverse program of high-quality musical acts, including both new performers and perennial favorites.**

Stage and Schedule Assignments

We cannot honor requests to perform on a particular stage or at a particular time. To be fair to all performers, we try to put returning acts on different stages than they have performed on in the past.

Check-In:

- Initial check-in is required for all groups at the **TKMA Kitchen Store Tent at Jacome Plaza**, just east of the Old Pima County Courthouse. All performing groups will receive a Welcome Packet!

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, [CONTACT US HERE](#)
- Volunteer jobs include: working in the TKMA Kitchen Store, Beer Garden, Water/Soda and Raffle Booths, Volunteer Tent, Kid's Zone and/or acting as Emcee, Stage Manager/Asst. Manager and/or general roustabout! Volunteer opportunities will be posted on our website after January 2020!
- 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>