

Appalachian String Band Music Festival

Music & Dance Contest Rules

CONTESTANTS MUST BE PRESENT AT THE INFORMATION TENT FOR CONTEST LINE-UP 30 MINUTES BEFORE THEIR CONTEST TO RECEIVE THEIR CONTESTANT NUMBER

TUNES: Contestants and bands need to be prepared to play one tune/song in the preliminaries and two additional pieces should they be selected as a finalist. Medley-style selections will not be judged. Electrical Instruments and DI devices will not be permitted. Singing, and alternate lead instruments will ONLY be permitted in the Neo-Traditional and Traditional Band Contests.

ACCIDENTS: Accidents beyond the control of the contestant (ex. broken strings) may result in a replay if the judges so merit.

LYRICS: Contestants must keep lyrics appropriate for family audiences.

PLAYING TIME: is limited to three (3) minutes in preliminaries, six (6) minutes in finals. We will have a timekeeper with the judges. After 2 ½ minutes for preliminaries or 5 ½ minutes for finals, when the yellow light comes on you can finish the verse and chorus that you are on, a red light will signal the end of the three minutes or six minutes depending on the session being played. Points will start to be deducted after three (3) minutes (or six (6) minutes). Three (3) penalty points per 10 seconds over will be deducted from the score. For preliminaries if you go four (4) minutes you will be disqualified. For finals if you go seven (7) minutes you will be disqualified.

ACCOMPANISTS: Contestants entering old-time fiddle and old-time banjo categories may have no more than one accompanist. Accompanists instruments cannot be the same as the contestant instrument.

INSTRUMENTATION: To be judged, contestants in the band contests must consist of at least three but no more than seven members. Bands competing in the traditional band contest should use instruments normally found in old-time bands. Bands competing in the neo-traditional band contest may use instruments not usually associated with old-time music.

TIES: Contestants must be present to play another song, or they will be given the lower place. Any song may be played.

JUDGING CRITERIA: Music- Decisions by the judges will be final, score sheets will not be made public.

<p>Traditional Categories will be judged on the following criteria with the highest scores going to traditional old-time tunes/songs played in a traditional old-time style.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhythm/timing • Tonal Qualities • Expression/Soul • Difficulty • Old-Time Style 	<p>Neo-Traditional Band Contest will be judged on the following areas with the highest scores going to bands that creatively and skillfully combine fundamental elements of traditional old-time music (e.g., repertoire, style/spirit, instrumental) with alternative techniques and various musical styles in their presentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intonation • Timing • Difficulty • Creativity and Versatility 	<p>Best New Composition – Tune and Song: Compositions played during the preliminary round of the Neo-Trad Contest will not be based on quality of performance, but will rather be based on the composition’s demonstration of mastery of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old-Time Aesthetic • Artistic Merit • Originality and Innovation <p>The composer (or co-composer) of the tune or song must play an instrument or sing in the band.</p>	<p>Youth Bands:</p> <p>All band members in the youth categories must be 18 years old or under.</p> <p>Ribbons only will be awarded to winners for the Youth Bands.</p>
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JUDGING CRITERIA: Dance- Decisions by the judges will be final. **DANCE TIME:** limited to 30 seconds.

<p>Judging will be based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty and variety of steps • Keeping feet close to the floor • Natural, comfortable dance presentation • Timing • Smooth old-time style 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judges will be instructed to give higher points to those who dance in an accepted old-time style. • No Taps • There will be a dance off of the first-place winners in each age category for the Grand Champion award. • Score Sheets will not be made public.
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WINNERS/PRIZES: To receive payment, contest winners’ financial paperwork must be completed at the registration area promptly after the finals and awards for each contest. **Social Security numbers are mandatory for the paperwork.** All contest winners will be paid by check. Award checks will be mailed to winners within four weeks.

West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History
Appalachian String Band Music Festival

Music & Dance Contests and Prizes

***ALL CONTESTANTS MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED
 REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE MAILED OR EMAILED BY JULY 1ST**

FIND ONLINE AT WWW.WVCULTURE.ORG/EXPLORE/CAMP-WASHINGTON-CARVER/STRING-BAND-MUSIC-FESTIVAL/

The festival features the following “Music Contests”:

- Old-Time Banjo
- Old-Time Fiddle
- Neo-Traditional Stringband
- Traditional Stringband

The festival also features an “Old-Time Flatfoot Style Dance Contest”. All events have the following age categories:

- Youth - 17 and under
- Senior - 60 and over
- Open - any age

REGISTRATION:

All registered contestants must check in at the information booth and identify themselves as a registered contestant for the specific category or band they are registered for 30 minutes before their scheduled contest. All contests will be run in numerical order, and numbers will be assigned through a random draw. Contestants must be backstage and ready to perform when their number is called for all contests. If not present, you will be disqualified.

CONTEST CATEGORIES: Contestants are invited to enter all individual categories, however, if you are in the youth or senior categories and would like to enter the open contest, you must register for each contest. You are NOT allowed to play in more than one band. Bands may enter one category only- either Neo-Traditional or Traditional.

WEDNESDAY

BANJO CONTESTS

11am.....Youth Old-Time Banjo Contest -Awards to follow contest
 1pm.....Senior Old-Time Banjo Contest- Awards to follow contest
 3pm.....Open Old-Time Banjo Contest
 6pm.....Open Old-Time Banjo Finals and Awards

THURSDAY

FIDDLE CONTESTS

11am.....Youth Old-Time Fiddle Contest- Awards to follow contest
 1pm.....Senior Old-Time Fiddle Contest – Awards to follow contest
 3pm.....Open Old-Time Fiddle Contest
 6pm.....Open Old-Time Fiddle Finals and Awards

FRIDAY

NEO-TRADITIONAL BAND CONTEST

11am.....Youth Neo-Trad Band Contest-Awards to follow contest
 1-5pm.....Open Neo-Traditional Band Contest
 6pm.....Open Neo-Traditional Band Finals and Awards

SATURDAY

TRADITIONAL BAND AND FLATFOOT DANCE CONTESTS

11am.....Youth Traditional Band Contest- Awards to follow contest
 1-5pm.....Open Traditional Band Contest
 4-6pm.....Flatfoot Dance Contest –(CHESTNUT LODGE) Awards to follow contest
 6pm.....Open Traditional Band Finals and Awards

Prizes

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Youth Banjo	\$100	\$ 75	\$ 50		
Senior Banjo	\$200	\$100	\$ 50		
Open Banjo	\$400	\$200	\$150	\$100	\$ 50
Youth Fiddle	\$100	\$ 75	\$ 50		
Senior Fiddle	\$200	\$100	\$ 50		
Open Fiddle	\$400	\$200	\$150	\$100	\$ 50
Youth Neo-Traditional Band - Ribbon Only					
Neo-Trad Band	\$1000	\$750	\$500	\$400	\$300
New Composition – Tune and Song – Ribbon Only					
Youth Traditional Band - Ribbon Only					
Traditional Band	\$1000	\$750	\$500	\$400	\$300
Youth Flatfoot	\$ 100	\$ 75	\$ 50		
Senior Flatfoot	\$ 100	\$ 75	\$ 50		
Open Flatfoot	\$ 100	\$ 75	\$ 50		
Grand Champion Dancer	\$ 100				