



Old Time Fiddler's & Bluegrass Festival

SPECIAL MESSAGE TO BANDS FROM THE VAN HOY FAMILY:

All of us at Fiddler's Grove want you to know how much we appreciate you, your music, your friendship and your participation in our Old Time Fiddler's & Bluegrass Festival. As you know, our primary purpose at Fiddler's Grove is to promote, encourage, and perpetuate traditional music played in the Old Time and Bluegrass style. We especially enjoy providing you with an opportunity to do this surrounded by folks, who, like us, appreciate your musical talents and the emotion you put into playing. We hope you enjoy a wonderful weekend of music and fun.

The Van Hoy Family

SPECIAL NOTE TO MUSICIANS:

When you register for the competition, festival administration will email your bandleader a confirmation. Please bring that confirmation to the festival gate to receive your passes for admission. Bandleaders are responsible for making sure that all members of their band enter with a confirmation. Tickets will not be mailed, but picked-up upon arrival. Those on the waiting list will be required to pay to get in, but will be reimbursed if moved from the waiting list to compete.

NOTE: To encourage family members to attend, we offer passes to your spouse/partner and children only. Please let your band members know about this offer.

CAMPING NOTE: Space is limited in the musician camping area. SITES WILL NOT BE ASSIGNED. Payment can be made online or will be taken upon arrival. Sites will be available on a first come first served basis. Regular camping fees apply.



Old Time Fiddler's & Bluegrass Festival Junior Instrument Competition Information & Rules

CATEGORIES: There are 7 contest categories: Open, Guitar, Banjo, Mandolin, Bluegrass Fiddle, Old Time Fiddle, and Bass. The Open Category will include Dobro, Dulcimer, Harmonica, Hammered Dulcimer, Autoharp, Vocal, and other traditional instruments that do not have a category of their own. Festival administration reserves the right to accept or decline an open category registration.

AGE: Contestants in the Junior Competition must be 17 years old or younger on the day of competition.

REGISTRATION: Registration will be available online and is limited to the first 15 contestants in each category. There will be a wait list for those who do not make the cut off. If space allows, registration will be open Saturday morning beside the Old Barn at 9am.

TUNE: The mission of Fiddler's Grove is to promote, encourage, and perpetuate traditional music played in Old Time and Bluegrass style. In preparing your competition tune, please give attention to the authenticity of the tune and to the style in which you play it. The contest tune may not exceed 2 ½ minutes in length.

COMPETITION: Competition will begin on Saturday at 10am at the Over Yonder Stage. Categories will be judged in the following sequence: Open, Guitar, Banjo, Mandolin, Bluegrass Fiddle, Old Time Fiddle, Bass. You must be present to compete during the time that your category is judged.

Please be sure your instrument is in tune before you get on the stage. You may play solo or with one backup instrument. Judging criteria will include style, intonation, timing, tone, ability, and difficulty. "Trick & Fancy" fiddle tunes (*Orange Blossom Special*, *Listen to the Mockingbird*, *Black Mountain Rag*) are not permitted. Bluegrass banjo players may not use Scruggs tuners.

Sound system adjustments will remain at the same setting throughout the competition, with the exception of feedback adjustments by the official sound technician only. In the event of a broken string or unavoidable issue, contestants may restart the tune or return to the stage later to start over at the discretion of the judges.

TIES: In the event of a tie, or at the judges' discretion, callbacks may be held. Contestants may be required to play a different tune in the event of a callback.

PRIZES: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be awarded during the Award Ceremony at the Grove Stage on Saturday evening.

The 1st Place Junior Old Time Fiddle and Bluegrass Fiddle winners will be invited to compete for the Fiddler of the Festival award on Saturday evening.

Judges decisions are final. Rules are subject to modification at the sole discretion of Festival Management.



Old Time Fiddler's & Bluegrass Festival Senior Instruments & Twin Fiddle Competition Information & Rules

CATEGORIES: There will be 2 individual fiddle contest categories: Bluegrass Fiddle and Old Time Fiddle. Contestants may only register for only ONE of these categories. Electric instruments are not permitted. Other senior categories include guitar and banjo.

Twin Fiddle Competition is open to all fiddlers' regardless of age or style. One rhythm instrument is allowed in addition to the two fiddlers. Twin Fiddle contestants may also compete in an individual competition.

TUNE: The mission of Fiddler's Grove is to promote, encourage, and perpetuate traditional music played in Old Time and Bluegrass style. In preparing your competition tune, please give attention to the authenticity of the tune and to the style in which you play it. The contest tune may not exceed 2 ½ minutes in length.

REGISTRATION: Registration will be available online and is limited to the first 15 contestants in each category. There will be a wait list for those who do not make the cut off. If space allows, registration will be open Saturday morning beside the Old Barn at 9am.

COMPETITION: Competition will begin on Saturday at 10am at the Grove Stage. Categories will be judged in the following sequence: Guitar, Banjo, Twin Fiddle, Bluegrass Fiddle, Old Time Fiddle. You must be present to compete during the time that our category is judged.

Please be sure your instrument is in tune before you get on the stage. You may play solo or with one backup instrument. Judging criteria will include style, intonation, timing, tone, ability, and difficulty. "Trick & Fancy" fiddle tunes (*Orange Blossom Special, Listen to the Mockingbird, Black Mountain Rag*) are not permitted.

Sound system adjustments will remain at the same setting throughout the competition, with the exception of feedback adjustments by the official sound technician only. In the event of a broken string or unavoidable issue, contestants may restart the tune or return to the stage later to start over at the discretion of the judges.

TIES: In the event of a tie, or at the judges' discretion, callbacks may be held. Contestants may be required to play a different tune in the event of a callback.

PRIZES: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be awarded during the Award Ceremony at the Grove Stage on Saturday evening.

The 1st Place Senior Old Time Fiddle and Bluegrass Fiddle winners will be invited to compete for the Fiddler of the Festival award on Saturday evening.

Judges decisions are final. Rules are subject to modification at the sole discretion of Festival Management.



Old Time Fiddler's & Bluegrass Festival Fiddler of the Festival Information & Rules

This award spotlights the focal instrument of the festival and is the highest honor a fiddler can attain. The Fiddler of the Festival will be chosen from the champions in each fiddler category. The playoff is held on the Grove Stage during the Saturday evening show.

QUALIFICATION: The 1st place winners in the following categories will be invited to compete for the Fiddler of the Festival: Senior Bluegrass Fiddle, Senior Old Time Fiddle, Junior Bluegrass Fiddle, and Junior Old Time Fiddle.

The champion of each division must be present for the playoff. If the champion is not present to compete, he/she retains the title of champion of their division, however the 2nd place winner will be invited to compete for Fiddler of the Festival in his/her place.

SEQUENCE: Names of the 4 contestants will be drawn at random to determine the sequence of play before the contest begins.

TUNES: Each contestant will play three tunes: (1) Fast tune, reel, jig, or hornpipe. (2) Slow tune, waltz or schottische. (3) One tune of his/her choice. No tune may exceed 3 ½ minutes. Contestants are not required to remain in the style of the division they won. E.G.: the Bluegrass Champion may perform a tune in Old Time Style or vice versa. "Trick & Fancy" tunes are allowed as tune of choice.

PRIZES: Fiddler of the Festival, 1st Runner-up and 2nd Runner-up Fiddler of the Festival prizes will be awarded during the Fiddler of the Festival Presentation.

After a fiddler has won the Fiddler of the Festival prize in 3 different years (whether consecutive or not), he or she will be designated a Master Fiddler and will no longer be permitted in fiddle competition. Master Fiddler's are invited to perform for the Fiddler's Grove audience in future years.

Judges decisions are final. Rules are subject to modification at the sole discretion of Festival Management.



Old Time Fiddler's & Bluegrass Festival Junior and Senior Hot Licks Information & Rules

The Hot Licks competitions give performers a chance to show off their jamming skills. Contestants are encouraged to bring their hottest licks within the Old Time and Bluegrass styles of the festival. This popular, fast moving competition has become an audience favorite.

QUALIFICATION: The Hot Licks competitions are open to all acoustic instruments.

AGE: Contestants in Junior Hot Licks must be 17 years old or younger on the day of competition. Senior Hot Licks is open to all ages.

REGISTRATION: Registration will be available online and is limited to the first 15 contestants in each category. There will be NO wait list for those who do not make the cut off. However, if space allows, registration will be open Saturday morning beside the Old Barn at 9am. Contestants may also register at the Grove Stage if there are still spaces remaining.

TUNES: The song to be used during competition will be drawn right before the competition begins. The song will be a standard vocal number based on a very standard chord progression in the key of G major, A major, or D major. Contestants unfamiliar with the tune will likely be able to pick it up very quickly. The song will be chosen from the following list:

Crying Holy Unto the Lord (G)	The Old Home Place (A)
On My Way Back to the Old Home (G)	Nine Pound Hammer (A)
I Saw the Light (G)	Blue Ridge Mountain Home (A)
I'll Fly Away (G)	I'm Workin' on a Building (D)
Sitting on Top of the World (G)	

MEETING BEHIND THE STAGE: Contestants must attend the Mandatory Hot Licks meeting behind the Main Stage 10 minutes before the contest begins. At this time, the rules will be reviewed. Contestants who are not present at this meeting will not be permitted to compete.

SEQUENCE OF PLAY: Each contestant will receive a number. Right before the competition, numbers will be drawn to determine the order of performance.

PROCESS: The singer-guitarist will kick off and perform a verse and chorus. There will be 2 microphones for contestants. Contestants will line up backstage. As they enter the stage, they will alternate mics, so that the next contestant can get in place while the previous contestant is performing. Each contestant will play his/her 'break' to one verse and one chorus, and then exit the other side of the stage. After every fourth competitor, the singer/guitarist will sing a verse and chorus of the song solo, during which time no competitor will be allowed to play.

There will be 2 rounds with the same tune. In the 1st round, contestants will not be judged. This gives everyone a chance to see how it works, enter and exit the stage, etc. The 2nd round will begin immediately after all contestants have finished the 1st round. The 2nd round will use the same tune, and will be judged.

Contestants who attempt to use more time than allotted in the verse/chorus/break formation will be disqualified.

FINALS: The judges will select 5-8 players to advance to the Final. This will include the top scoring contestant for each major instrument, and up to 3 additional players to be chosen at the sole discretion of the judges (This could include washtub bass, autoharp, etc. and could also include more than one player of a major instrument).

The Final Round contestants will form a band with the singer/guitarist, and they will all perform a second tune together as a band, using a simple arrangement to be worked out among the players before the Final Round begins. Each contestant will have a chance to play 'fill-in runs' behind one verse and chorus and also take one solo break.

Any contestant who intentionally plays out of turn during a fellow contestant's performance time will be disqualified.

PRIZES: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place Jammer of the Festival prizes will be awarded.

SCORING CRITERIA:

Arrangement: Difficulty and originality will be considered. How a sense of melody and hot licks/riffs are interwoven will also be considered.

Execution and Tuning: Fingering, picking/bowing and dynamics will be considered.

Overall Impression: The general effect of the contestant's performance.

Show Value: The music should be played with life and feeling rather than appearing listless or dragging.



Old Time Fiddler's & Bluegrass Festival Junior and Senior Band Competition Information & Rules

AGE FOR JUNIOR BAND: There are 2 ways to qualify for Junior Band: All band members must be 17 years old or younger on the day of competition. Alternatively, if all Junior Band members are 12 years old or younger, they may have one adult playing with them in a backup role. The adult may not participate in vocals and may not take an instrumental break or play lead.

INSTRUMENT REQUIREMENTS: Bands must consist of at least 2 melody instruments (fiddle, banjo, mandolin) plus guitar. Bands may have additional instruments (bass, another fiddle, etc.), but may not include electrical instruments or drums. A band may not exceed 6 members.

REGISTRATION: Individuals may play in only 1 band. Registration will be available online and is limited to the first 10 bands in each of the four categories. There will be a wait list for those who do not make the cut-off. If space allows, registration will be open Saturday morning beside the Old Barn at 9am.

TUNES: Bands will perform 2 tunes. One of the numbers may be a vocal number, but this is not required. Tunes must be played in either Old Time or Bluegrass style. No tune may exceed 3 minutes in length.

OLD TIME BANDS: Tunes should be characteristic of the Old Time tradition and style. Only one vocal number is permitted, but not required. No tune may exceed 3 minutes in length.

BLUEGRASS BANDS: Only one vocal number permitted, but not required. Traditional tunes preferred and encouraged. No tune may exceed 3 minutes in length.

The mission of Fiddler's Grove is to promote, encourage, and perpetuate traditional music played in Old Time and Bluegrass style. In preparing your competition tune, please give attention to the authenticity of the tune and to the style in which you play it. Bands will be judged on authenticity of style, balance, tuning, and timing. The judging will also be based on the smoothness of starting and stopping tunes. Bands are encouraged to play one relatively fast and one relatively slow number. Judges usually favor traditional performance over technical performance.

BAND COMPETITION: All bands will compete on the Grove Stage. Please see festival schedule for exact time(s). Your band must be present behind the stage and ready to perform at competition time. Please make sure your instrument is in tune before you get on the stage. Also, in the interest of time, please do not introduce your band members during competition.

Sound system adjustments will remain at the same setting throughout the competition, with the exception of feedback adjustments by the official sound technician only. In the event of a broken string or unavoidable issue, contestants may restart the tune or return to the stage later to start over at the discretion of the judges.

TIES: In the event of a tie, or at the judges' discretion, callbacks may be held. Contestants may be required to play a different tune in the event of a callback.

FINAL COMPETITION: In the senior competition, three bands will be selected in their division to compete in the final round on Saturday evening. Band membership must remain the same as the afternoon competition. Bands are encouraged to play different tunes from the ones they performed in the afternoon, but it is not required.