

General Competition Rules:

Failure to comply with these rules will result in being disqualified or your score being significantly lower.

The purpose of the Acoustic Pig Jig is to promote and perpetuate acoustic traditional music and instruments. Our purpose is to preserve the heritage and roots of Americana acoustic music and encourage musicians of all ages to learn, appreciate, and interpret traditional music styles and provide them with opportunities to showcase their skills. The focus of this competition is solely on instrumental skill and interpretation of the tunes and not on vocals in the categories fiddle, mandolin, guitar, and banjo. Vocals are only appropriate in the vocal category.

Any song may be performed, but traditional* (see below for a definition of traditional music) songs/tunes selections will be scored higher since this is a traditional competition.

Contestants will perform one (1) song.

The categories of mandolin, banjo, guitar, and fiddle are for instrumental tunes only. No vocals. Vocals are only used in the vocal category.

A contestant may enter more than one category.

Absolutely no cd's, midis, or prerecorded music is allowed in any competition. This includes the vocal and dance category.

A tune played by a previous competitor is discouraged. We encourage the use of little known tunes and songs.

Feel free to consult the Chairman of Judges with any questions about the appropriateness of a selected piece of music.

Do not exceed 3 minutes for any song/tune. Judges will interrupt and deduct points for exceeding the time limit.

This is a family oriented event. Lewd, vulgar or otherwise generally offensive material may not be performed. At their discretion, the judges may disqualify inappropriate performances.

No electric instruments or plugged in instruments will be used.

Drum kits of any kind are not allowed in any category. Traditional hand percussion like spoons and bones may be used.

You may have one (1) and only one (1) back up instrument in any category, but none are required. The presence or absence of back-up instrument(s) will not be a basis for judging the performance, unless the accompaniment overshadows or distracts from the main instrument

MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL -----HAVE FUN!!!!

For the competition:

You may preregister online or register in person, but each competitor must sign a copy of the rules and by signing you are stating that you understand and will abide by the rules.

Check in with the stage manager as soon as your category is called.

Remain backstage throughout the entire duration of the category.

While waiting in the backstage area, be respectful of others and the proceedings onstage. Practicing or "warming-up" must be done away from the immediate backstage area.

Failure to appear when called may result in disqualification and loss of entry fees. It is NOT the responsibilities of staff to make sure you are there ready to participate. Please keep aware of the proceedings and respond immediately when your name is called.

No additional registrants will be allowed in a category after the first contestant begins.

NO SINGING may accompany the instrument competition. Singing is only appropriate in the vocal category.

***TRADITIONAL MUSIC DEFINITION: Traditional music is often called heritage music. It is songs and tunes which have been performed, by custom, over a long period (usually several generations). It is music that has passed mostly unchanged between generations usually without notation and mostly played by ear. Often traditional music has no copyright (ie it is public domain) and at times the authors are unknown. It is also consists of folk songs, ballads, square dance tunes, jigs, reels, rags, hornpipes (lively dance tunes) and fiddle tunes. Tunes and songs associated with the Appalachian, Celtic, and Irish melodies form the basis of the traditional genre.**

Examples of tunes include but are not limited to:

John Henry
Wayfaring Stranger
John Brown's Dream
Bill Cheatham
Shady Grove

Dill Pickle Rag
Old Joe Clarke
Soldier's Joy
Sailor's Hornpipe
Billy In the Low Ground

Margaret's Waltz
Turkey in the Straw

Additional Guidelines:

Fiddle category:

This is an open style fiddling so old time, traditional, Texas swing, bluegrass styles are all welcome.

Contestants will perform one (1) **instrumental** tune.

Contestant may use one (1) backup / accompanist.

Cross-tuning is allowed.

Criteria judges use will include musical skill, phrasing, interpretation and improvisation, bowing and tempo, as well as appropriate song choice.

Banjo category:

This is an open style banjo contest so clawhammer, frailing, two-finger picking, up-picking, Scruggs, and Reno styles are all welcome.

Cross-tuning is allowed.

Contestants will perform one (1) **instrumental** tune.

Contestant may use one (1) backup / accompanist.

Criteria judges use will include musical skill, phrasing, interpretation and improvisation, and tempo, as well as appropriate song choice.

Guitar category:

This is an open style guitar competition so flat picking and finger style picking are both welcome.

Cross-tuning is allowed.

Contestants will perform one (1) **instrumental** tune.

Contestant may use one (1) backup / accompanist.

Criteria judges use will include musical skill, phrasing, interpretation and improvisation, and tempo, as well as appropriate song choice.

Mandolin category:

This is an open style mandolin contest.

Contestants will perform one (1) **instrumental** tune.

Contestant may use one (1) backup / accompanist.

Criteria judges use will include musical skill, phrasing, interpretation and improvisation, and tempo, as well as appropriate song choice.

Singers will sing one (1) song, no longer than three minutes.

Singers may have one accompanist and/or may accompany their own performance with an acoustic instrument.

Singing will be judged in the four categories of feeling, intonation, vocal technique, and song selection (songs will be scored higher that represent traditional music. See **Traditional Music Definition** above in the section [For the Competition](#)).

Buckdancing category:

A broad range of individual styles and executions are allowed, no holds barred.

Contestants will be judged on the individual expertise of their performance.

Showmanship is encouraged.

Contestants will be judged by audience applause. No cash prizes for this category, ribbons only.

Contestants will dance in a group style to a hoe down style song provided by live musicians. The song will be announced the day of the competition.