

2019 Uncle Dave Macon Days

Music Competition Guidelines

1. Visit the registration tent and register for your category or categories as soon as you can upon arriving at the festival grounds. You will receive your contestant number when you register. This will remain the same for all contests entered into that day.
2. Check in with the stage manager as soon as your category is called.
3. Remain backstage when not competing throughout the entire duration of your category.
4. While waiting in the backstage area, be respectful of others and the proceedings onstage. Practicing or “warming-up” must be done in such a way as to not interfere with the judging or the performance of other contestants.
5. 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.
6. No additional registrants will be allowed in a category after the first contestant begins. Exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the Chairman of Judges.
7. A contestants’ number will remain the same throughout the preliminary and final competitions (if applicable).
8. The following categories **do not have finals**. Contestants should be prepared to play **two (2) tunes**. The intention is for contestants to be judged and winners determined from two tunes. This may be changed to one tune at the Chairman of Judges discretion if there is an overabundance of contestants or a shortage of time. Consult the official program or the stage manager for any revisions.
 - a. Beginner Instrumental
 - b. Blues Singing with acoustic instruments
 - c. Contest Fiddle
 - d. Deford Bailey Harmonica
 - e. Guitar
 - f. Mandolin
 - g. Old Time/Traditional Fiddle
 - h. Old Time Singing
 - i. Uncle Dave Macon FreeWheelin’
9. The following categories **will have finals**. This may change if there is an overabundance of contestants or a shortage of time. Consult the official program or the stage manager for any revisions. For these categories three (3) finalists will be selected from the preliminary round. For these categories contestants are expected to perform one (1) selection in the preliminary round and two (2) tunes in the finals. Finalist contestants are not allowed to repeat their selection from the preliminary round.
 - a. Bluegrass Band
 - b. Bluegrass Banjo
 - c. Old-Time Banjo National Championship
 - d. Old-Time Band

10. Contestants who have won their category two (2) years in a row are not eligible to enter that particular category the following year. They will be reinstated for eligibility the next Uncle Dave Macon Festival.
11. Contestants are expected to honor the spirit of the competition and not attempt to manipulate any contest by taking advantage of multiple registrations i.e. as a single and duo or trio in order to maximize stage time. Nullification of any contest registration is at the discretion of the Chairman of Judges.
12. NO SINGING may accompany the contestants in any category except the following:
 - a. Bluegrass Band
 - b. Blues Singing
 - c. Jug Band
 - d. Old-Time Band
 - e. Old-Time Singing
 - f. Uncle Dave Macon FreeWheelin'
13. Electric bass may be used in bluegrass band contest only. Otherwise, electric amplified instruments are not allowed in any category.
14. Drum kits are not allowed in any category. Traditional hand-percussion instruments are permitted as appropriate.
15. No back-up instrument is required in any music category other than band categories. The presence or absence of back-instrument(s) will not be a basis for judging the performance, unless the accompaniment overshadows or distracts from the main instrument or vocalization.
16. In individual instrumental categories, a maximum of two (2) back-up instruments are allowed.
17. The duration of contest songs or tunes should not exceed approximately three (3) minutes. Judges may interrupt the performance and/or disqualify any excessively long entries.
18. No traditional tunes or songs are “banned” from the competition. However, contestants are encourage to choose selections which are truly appropriate for the categories. The playing of “overused” selections is discouraged. Feel free to consult the Chairman of Judges with any questions about the appropriateness of a selected piece of music.
19. Unless specified in the rules for a category, original material is allowed as long as it is in the style of the musical tradition for the category in which it is being performed. The authenticity and appropriateness of the composition for the category will be part of the judge’s scoring. Refer to the general judging guidelines on page 5 for more detail. Feel free to consult the Chairman of Judges with any questions about the appropriateness of a selected piece of music.
20. Uncle Dave Macon Days 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.
21. If time becomes a constraint or any unforeseen circumstances, the Chairman of Judges and/or festival director may restrict the number of tunes performed in any category or make other changes to the rules and schedules as required for contest administration.

Additional Guidelines

Beginner Instrumental (2 Tunes no Finals)

1. Open to musicians twelve years of age and under as of the contest date.
2. Contestants may play any traditional instrument that is allowed in the general categories.
3. Contestants who enter this category may not enter the regular competition for the like instrument. However, beginner instrumental contestants may participate as members of a band.

Bluegrass Band (1 Tune Preliminary, 2 Tunes Finals)

1. A bluegrass band is a string ensemble patterned after Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys.
2. Normally consisting (but not required) of fiddle(s), mandolin, guitar, 5 string banjo and acoustic (upright bass). Additional instruments may include harmonica and Dobro.
3. Singing is permitted and encouraged.
4. Repertoire is open but must be in the “bluegrass” style. Older tunes are encouraged but judgment should be used in performing tunes that have been “overplayed”. Original material in the bluegrass tradition is also encouraged.

Blues Singing (with acoustic accompaniment) (2 Tunes no Finals)

1. Songs should be in an authentic blues style in any of the “prewar” blues traditions.
2. Modern (post 1945) songs should be avoided. If in doubt about a selection, please consult the Chairman of Judges.
3. A maximum of two (2) backup instruments is allowed. No accompaniment is required.

Bobby Thompson Bluegrass Banjo (1 Tune Preliminary, 2 Tunes Finals)

1. This contest is with the emphasis on the more modern style (3 finger picking) as developed by Earl Scruggs, Don Reno etc. and played in the style developed by Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys in the early 1950’s forward. Intensity and drive are hallmarks of this style.

Contest Fiddle (2 Tunes no Finals)

1. This category features Texas, Bluegrass, and fancy contest type fiddling. Here greater flexibility in tempo and melodic variation is allowed and encouraged.
2. Phrasing, melodic structure, and tasteful ornamentation are generally considered more important than simple rhythmic bowing.
3. This style is judged more for listenability than for dancing.
4. Notable fiddle players in this style include: Benny Thomasson, Texas Shorty Chancellor, J. T. Perkins, Mark O’Connor, Howdy Forrester, and Kenny Baker.

Deford Bailey Harmonica (2 Tunes no Finals)

1. This is a relatively “open” contest but the emphasis is to be placed on the harmonica style of Deford Bailey and his era (early 1920s through the early 1940’s).
2. A maximum of two (2) backup instruments in addition to the harmonica player are allowed. No accompaniment is required.

Jug Band (2 Tunes no Finals)

1. A Jug Band is an ensemble (3 or more players) using a jug player and having a combination of traditional and home-made instruments. These home-made instruments are everyday objects used in making sounds such as a washboard, spoons, comb and tissue, kazoos, washtub bass, etc. It is not absolutely necessary to have a jug but it is taken into consideration.
2. Repertoire is open but usually Blues, Jazz and Folk styles are encouraged with emphasis on joyful exuberance in its expression.

Old Time Band (1 Tune Preliminary, 2 Tunes Finals)

1. An **Old Time Band** is a string ensemble in the pre-1940 Appalachian mountain tradition.
2. Primary instrumentation usually includes: fiddle(s) and old time banjo
3. Accompaniment may include guitar, acoustic bass, mandolin, autoharp, lap dulcimer, hammered dulcimer and other period stringed instruments.
4. Singing is permitted and encouraged.
5. The repertoire should be authentic vintage songs and tunes from the rural oral tradition.

Old Time Banjo (*National Championship*) (1 Tune Preliminary, 2 Tunes Finals)

1. This category features pre-Bluegrass banjo playing styles such as: clawhammer, frailing, two-finger picking, up-picking, stroke style, etc.
2. The use of finger pick(s) is optional.
3. Notable artists in these styles include: Uncle Dave Macon, Doc Boggs, Tommy Jarrell, Stringbean, Grandpa Jones, Hobart Smith, etc.
4. Modern (post 1945) tunes should be avoided. If in doubt about a selection, please consult the Chairman of Judges.

Old Time Singing (2 Tunes no Finals)

1. Songs should be in an authentic old-time style such as: Jimmie Rodgers, the Carter Family, Uncle Dave Macon, The Delmore Brothers etc.
2. Modern (post 1945) songs should be avoided. If in doubt about a selection, please consult the Chairman of judges.
3. A maximum of two (2) backup instruments is allowed. No accompaniment is required.
4. Duet and trio singing is permitted, however be mindful of rule No. 11 on page 1.
5. No full bands allowed in this category. There is another category for this.

Old Time/Traditional Fiddle (2 Tunes no Finals)

1. Tempo, drive and phrasing should be conducive for dancing. Rhythmic bowing is more important than ornamentation.
2. Cross-tuning and re-tuning are allowed.
3. Accompaniment is optional. Otherwise the general guidelines apply.
4. Fiddle players in this style include: John Carson, Arthur Smith, Tommy Jarrell, Ramona Jones, Curly Fox, Gid Tanner and Earl White.

Uncle Dave Macon Free Wheelin' (2 Tunes no Finals)

1. This contest is intended to be a tribute to Uncle Dave's musical style and spirit. Duplicating Uncle Dave in manner or dress is not required but is encouraged.
2. A maximum of two (2) backup instruments is allowed. No accompaniment is required.

General Judging Criteria for all Music categories

1. **Style (20%)**
 - a. Appropriateness for the category
 - b. Musical Quality
2. **Timing and Rhythm (20%)**
 - a. Consistency
 - b. Tastefulness
3. **Tone and Quality (20%)**
 - a. Playing, singing and or harmonizing in tune
 - b. Good instrumental tone and/or vocal quality
4. **Execution/Flawlessness (20%)**
 - a. Absence of missed or muffled notes
5. **Expression/Overall Performance (20%)**
 - a. Judges subjective evaluation
 - b. Stage presence
 - c. Audience appeal
 - d. Performance quality

The contests and their rules are reviewed every year. Adjustments may occur as required. Your input is desired and valued. Please contact the festival using the addresses below and it will be forwarded to the appropriate individual(s).

Thank you for being a part of the festival and helping to make it an event worth experiencing!

Rodney T. Wright
Chairman of Judges

Uncle Dave Macon Days Festival Website: <http://uncledavemacondays.org/contact/>
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