

The Florida State Fair

Stringed Instruments Competition

Our Fair is so much more than rides and midway food! It includes a grand exhibition of agricultural, industrial, mechanical, horticultural, dairy, forestry, poultry and livestock resources. FFA and 4H members compete in the Champion of Champions Youth Livestock Program. Livestock of all kinds fill our barns.

The Florida Center hosts competitive exhibits of art, baking, horticulture, photography, textiles, winemaking and woodworking. Cracker Country is a rural Florida Living Museum featuring traditional, early craft and trade artisans who recreate the lives and labors of the past.

Our Expo Hall holds exhibitors and vendors from across the country and the world!

More than 450,000 visitors are expected to come to the 2016 Florida State Fair. Many of those individuals come primarily to see the various exhibits that will be on display. Your work is an integral part of our celebration and we look forward to showcasing your talent at the Fair from February 4 – 15, 2016.

PROGRAM CALENDAR

Wed. January 6, 2016	Entry form deadline
Fri. January 29, 2016 10:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Deliver items to the Florida Center
Sat. January 30, 2016 10:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Judging
Sun. January 31, 2016 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	
February 4 – 15, 2016	Items Exhibited

Tues. February 16, 2016 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Entry Pick-up
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Stringed Instruments Competition and Exhibition Coordinators

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The objectives of the Stringed Instrument Division are to create a public display of handcrafted instruments that differ from those being mass produced and to provide an opportunity for the Luthier (stringed-instrument maker) to exhibit his or her work and compete with other luthiers.

The overall goal of the luthier is to create an instrument embodying the following qualities:

1. Sound and playability that are balanced across all the strings and that project clearly with the appropriate intonation, volume, tone and sustain for the instrument's size and shape;
2. Workmanship that demonstrates a perfect fit of all components, with no gaps or rough areas that would detract from appearance, playability or sound;
3. A design that includes wood that is pleasing to the eye and appointments that generate a sense of beauty, thus allowing the luthier to contribute originality to the instrument;
4. A flawless finish that demonstrates the luthier's ability to protect the instrument and enhance its beauty while not detracting from its sound, appearance or playability.

General Information

Competition Handbooks may be downloaded from the Florida State Fair website at www.floridastatefair.com.

1. Open to all Florida residents over the age of 18. No prerequisite for entry. Please read all rules and regulations before entering.
2. Enter online at www.floridastatefair.com, and pay fees using a Visa or MasterCard.
3. Entry Fee: \$3 per entry.
4. No kits, prefabricated parts or commercially assembled or Computer Generated (CNC) units or components accepted. Manufactured tuning machines and resonators are acceptable.
5. Entered items must fit the classification of stringed instruments and must be that of the crafter/luthier making the submission.
6. Work must have never been displayed before at the Florida State Fair.
7. No more than two (2) items per class per exhibitor may be entered each year.
8. During the entry period, the assigned receivers will verify correctness of classification and adherence to rules. They will classify and/or disqualify fairly and to the best of their ability, and with oversight of the Florida Center Coordinator (to avoid violating State Fair policies).
9. Entered items may be offered for sale at the option of the exhibitor; however, all exhibits must remain throughout the entire fair.
10. All entered string instruments must be tunable to a standard or alternate tuning and must be playable.
11. On board electronics for acoustic instruments such as pickups or microphones will not be judged.

The Stringed Instruments Exhibition will be held in the Florida Center during the Florida State Fair. The exhibit will be open for your viewing pleasure.

How to Enter Online

When registering, please consider that how you input your information is a direct source for the publishing of names and titles for Award Recognition and Publications. Please pay special attention and use proper spelling, capitalization, full names of cities/counties, no abbreviations and correct contact and mailing outlets. Thank you.

The Florida State Fair has implemented ShoWorks, an on-line entry program. ShoWorks is an industry standard used by over 50 fairs nationally. This user-friendly program can be trusted to accurately enter you into our competitions and allows for efficient communications via e-mail. We are excited to have ShoWorks to better facilitate entering Florida State Fair competitions.

Take a moment to look through this Competition Handbook to see which competition your entry is eligible to compete in. Then, follow the easy steps listed below to enter the competition you have chosen.

Note that sessions expire after 20 minutes of inactivity, so "save the cart" if you plan on leaving the computer for more than 20 minutes.

Everyone must register as a new exhibitor when logging in for the first time in any given year.

Divisions and Classes

STRINGED INSTRUMENTS

BASIC EXHIBITOR - DIVISION 200

Class Description

1. Electric Guitar and Electric Bass
2. Acoustic Guitar, Classical Guitar, Harp Guitar, Resonator Guitar
3. Violin or Viola
4. Cello or Double Bass
5. Mandolin, Bouzouki and all other Double-Course Instruments
6. Ukulele, Psaltery, Dulcimer
7. Banjo, Cigar Box Instruments, Hurdy-Gurdy and all other Stringed Instruments
8. Other Not Listed

Judging

A panel of judges will be selected from professionals in the subject area. The following awards are determined based on individual merit and measured against industry standards.

First Place - State Fair Ribbon \$ 50

Second Place - State Fair Ribbon \$ 30

Third Place - State Fair Ribbon \$ 20

Best of Show - State Fair Ribbon \$ 150

Judging Criteria

Sound and playability - 40% Tone balance, responsiveness, articulation, warmth, sustain, volume, projection, dynamic range, upper harmonics and string action. For electric guitars and basses, tone pallet and volume without the use of any special effects.

1. Workmanship - 30% Craftsmanship complexity, joinery, fit, attention to detail
2. Design - 15% Originality, appearance, wood selection, appointments

3. Finish - 15% Appropriate thickness and build up, smoothness, sheen, evenness, tack of flaws

Honorable mention Ribbons may be awarded, at the discretion of the judges.

Judges reserve the right to decide proper classification. The decision of the judges are final.

Delivery of Entries

1. All entries must be delivered to the Florida State Fair Authority.
2. See calendar (page 2) for delivery dates and times.
3. Entries arriving at the Fairgrounds after Delivery and Shipping Deadlines may be disqualified.
4. Final results and exhibit display will be revealed during Fair time.

Retrieving Entries

If you choose to pick up your entry, see the calendar for Pick Up dates, times and locations (page 2). Entries not picked up on designated dates can be arranged for special pick up appointment by emailing Carla.Carman@freshfromflorida.com. All entries not claimed by April 1, 2016 will be recycled or donated through our program department.

Shipping Information

If you choose to ship your entries to the Fair:

1. Shipped entries must arrive no later than Friday, January 15, 2016.
2. Include a Shipping Form, available at www.floridastatefair.com. Shipments missing form will be returned COD after the fair.
3. Ship entries, with Shipping Form, to:
Florida State Fair Authority
Stringed Instruments Competition
4800 US Hwy 301 North
Tampa, FL 33610

4. Entries are shipped back to exhibitors after the Fair in the same container. Use reusable shipping containers.
5. Return shipping costs are the responsibility of the entrant.
6. Return shipping options: COD, Prepaid shipping label, UPS or FedEx account.

The Florida State Fair shall not be responsible for accidents or losses that may occur to any of the projects at the State Fair, or during shipping, and the exhibitors shall hold the State Fair and its officers harmless and indemnify them against any legal proceedings arising from such accident or loss. The Fair reserves the right to return mailed/shipped entries by any carrier available.

Insurance Information

1. Any insurance desired on an entry must be acquired by the exhibitor. The Florida State Fair does not insure and is not responsible for any loss, damage, or theft of entries even if the loss, damage, or theft occurs as the result of the handling of the exhibit by staff, volunteers, contractors and/or visitors.
2. Mailed or shipped entries will be returned insured based on the Insurance Value indicated on the Shipping Form. If no "Insurance Value" is listed entry will be returned uninsured.

No Guarantee

The State Fair cannot guarantee that all exhibition requirements of an entry can be provided (i.e. electricity, a showcase, a pedestal, special lighting, special location, total space requirements, water

source, computer services, or any other special requirements).

Division/Class Cancellation

The State Fair management reserves the right to return entries and cancel any division or class in which, in its judgment, the entries are insufficient to secure adequate competition.

Entry Errors

Fair management is not responsible for finding errors in entries. Exhibitors are responsible for any and all errors which were submitted online or on entry and summary forms. No exhibitor shall be entitled to an award which has been disallowed as the result of his own error. The Fair management shall withhold the payment of awards for exhibits that are ineligible and may recover awards that have been paid for ineligible entries that are disclosed during post audits of Fair records. However, exhibitors with cause are entitled to question the validity of any disallowance. Such exhibitors should inform the Fair management immediately, in writing, giving their name, address, complete description of the entry and the reason for requesting reconsideration. Requests will not be considered later than ninety (90) days after receiving notice of disallowance.

Substitution

Substitutions may be made in still exhibits only in the same division of the original entry class of the original exhibitor, and may be made only if completed by the entry delivery date. Substitutions for livestock must be in the same division of the original entry by the original exhibitor. Substitutions must be made at time of check in to avoid penalty. Fees may apply for substitutions in excess of two per division. The State Fair or the judge may disqualify or transfer to the correct class any entry which is not a true

representative of the division or class in which it is entered.

Previously Entered Entry

Any non-animal entry that has been exhibited at a previous Florida State Fair is not eligible for entry in the 2016 Florida State Fair.

Verification

Exhibitors wishing to verify that the State Fair has received submitted entry forms and fees must include a self-addressed/stamped postcard when submitting entry forms. Online submissions will receive a confirmation code once entries are submitted.

Responsibility

The Fair shall not be responsible for exhibits remaining on the fairgrounds after designated release times. All Still Exhibits or display elements remaining on the fairgrounds after designated release time will be treated as abandoned property and will be disposed of on or before September 1st of the same year

Removal of Entries

An exhibitor may not remove his or her entry from the Florida State Fair once it has been accepted. Entries must be on exhibit at the official opening of the Fair or at any other time specified in the Competition Handbook and shall not be removed from the fairgrounds prior to the release date printed in the handbook, except (at the discretion of the Fair management) in cases of positive evidence of sickness, accident and/or death, or other circumstances that are in the best interests of the Fair.

Dishonored Checks

A penalty of \$25.00 per dishonored check must be paid if a check in payment of entry fees or other applicable fees is refused by the bank. Only cash, certified check or money orders are acceptable for penalty payment.

Design

The Florida State Fair assumes total design control over the presentation of the exhibits. Entries designed for hanging and not so equipped will be hung in a manner deemed appropriate by the Fair. No exhibit changes will be made once the entries have been displayed. Once an entry has been received by the Fair, no further handling of entry by exhibitor shall be permitted. Relocation and final placement shall be accomplished by Fair personnel. Entries requiring assembly/disassembly must include detailed instructions and sketches for assembly/disassembly. Instructions should indicate lifting points, unsecured parts and any other information required for such handling. Where necessary, bank pins will be utilized to attach exhibits for display.