

TULSA
STATE FAIR
11 DAYS OF **AWESOME**

OKLAHOMA STATE

**47TH
ANNUAL**

Picking & Fiddling

CHAMPIONSHIPS

SEPTEMBER 28 & 29, 2019



2019 Oklahoma State Picking & Fiddling Championships

Fiddle Contests: Saturday Sept. 28, 2019

11:00AM	Opening Comments and Judges Perform	3:45PM	Junior Fiddle Contest Awards
11:00AM	Draw for Pee Wee Contest Playing Order (Ages 8 and Under)	3:45PM	J.C. Broughton Rising Star Award Presentation
11:15AM	Pee Wee Fiddle Contest	3:45PM	Draw for OK State Champion Fiddle Contest
11:45AM	Pee Wee Fiddle Contest Awards	4:00PM	OK State Champion Fiddle Contest (2 Rounds - Top 5)
11:45AM	Draw for Youth Contest Playing Order (Ages 9-11)	6:00PM	OK State Champion Fiddle Contest Awards
12:00PM	Youth Fiddle Contest	6:00PM	Draw for Senior Contest Playing Order (Ages 60+)
1:00PM	Youth Fiddle Contest Awards	6:15PM	Senior Fiddle Contest
1:00PM	Draw for Junior Junior Contest Playing Order (Ages 12-14)	6:45PM	Senior Fiddle Contest Awards
1:15PM	Junior Junior Fiddle Contest	6:45PM	Draw for Bob Wills Contest Playing Order
2:15PM	Junior Junior Fiddle Contest Awards	7:00PM	Bob Wills Fiddle Contest (2 Rounds - Top 5)
2:15PM	Performance Break	8:00PM	Bob Wills Fiddle Contest Awards
2:45PM	Draw for Junior Contest Playing Order (Ages 15-17)	8:30PM	Stage Closes
3:00PM	Junior Fiddle Contest		

2019 Oklahoma State Picking & Fiddling Championships

Picking & String Band Contests: Sunday Sept. 29, 2019

11:00AM Opening Comments and Judges Perform
11:00AM Draw for 1st Round Banjo Contest Playing Order
11:15AM Banjo Contest (2 Rounds - Top 5)
12:15PM Banjo Contest Awards
12:15PM Draw for Mandolin Contest Playing Order
12:30PM Mandolin Contest (2 Rounds - Top 5)
1:30PM Mandolin Contest Awards
1:30PM Performance Break
2:30PM Draw for Flatpick Guitar Contest Playing Order
3:00PM Flatpick Guitar Contest (2 Rounds - Top 5)
4:00PM Flatpick Guitar Contest Awards
4:00PM Draw for Fingerstyle Guitar Contest Playing Order
4:15PM Fingerstyle Guitar Contest (2 Rounds - Top 5)

5:15PM Fingerstyle Guitar Contest Awards
5:15PM Draw for String Band Contest Playing Order
5:30PM String Band Contest (15 Minutes Per Band)
7:30PM String Band Contest Awards
8:00PM Stage Closes

Age Divisions & Entry Fees

- Pee Wee: Ages 8 and under; \$10 per entry
- Youth: Ages 9 – 11; \$10 per entry
- Junior Junior: Ages 12 – 14; \$10 per entry
- Junior: Ages 15 – 17; \$10 per entry
- Championship: All ages; \$15 per entry
- Senior: Ages 60+; \$15 per entry
- Banjo, Mandolin, Flatpick & Fingerstyle Guitar: All ages; \$15 per entry
- Bob Wills: All Ages; \$15 per entry
- String Band: All groups up to 7 people; \$20 per entry. Each additional member will be \$5.

2019 Oklahoma State Picking & Fiddling Championships Money Prizes

Division	1st		2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	
Saturday, Sept. 28												
Oklahoma State Champion Fiddle	\$1,000	Buckle	\$500	\$300	\$200	\$100						
Senior Fiddle (60 & Older)	\$300	Buckle	\$200	\$100								
Junior Fiddle (15 - 17)	\$150	Buckle	\$100	\$75	\$50	\$25	\$20	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	
Junior Junior Fiddle (12 - 14)	\$50	Buckle	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	
Youth Fiddle (9 - 11)	\$50	Buckle	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	
Pee Wee Fiddle (8 & Under)	\$50	Buckle	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	
Bob Wills Fiddle Contest	\$200		\$125	\$100	\$50	\$25						
Sunday, Sept. 29												
Banjo	\$500	Buckle	\$300	\$100	\$50	\$25						
Mandolin	\$500	Buckle	\$300	\$100	\$50	\$25						
Flatpick Guitar	\$500	Buckle	\$300	\$100	\$50	\$25						
Fingerstyle Guitar	\$500	Buckle	\$300	\$100	\$50	\$25						
String Band	\$500		\$400	\$300	\$200	\$100						
Total Prize Money	\$4,300		\$2,615	\$1,350	\$760	\$395	\$50	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$9,630

Congratulations to the 2018 Picking & Fiddling Champions



**Pee Wee Division
Tristan Paskvan**



**Youth Division
Elizabeth Merrit**



**Junior Junior Division
Mary Parker**



**Fingerstyle
Mark Bruner**



**Flatpick
Trustin Baker**



**Mandolin
Scott Schmidt**



**Junior Division
Nathan Pedneault**



**OK State Champion
Ridge Roberts**



**Senior Division
Bill Taylor**



**Banjo
Joey Shann**



**String Band
The Baker Family**

Bob Wills Division

We are honored to sanction this Bob Wills Division based on the standards of the National Bob Wills Division established by the Bob Wills Fiddle Festival & Contest in Greenville, TX and administered by Sherry and Joey McKenzie.

Thank you, Oklahoma State Fiddle Championships, for helping to further the Bob Wills' legacy through the hearts and talents of fiddlers!

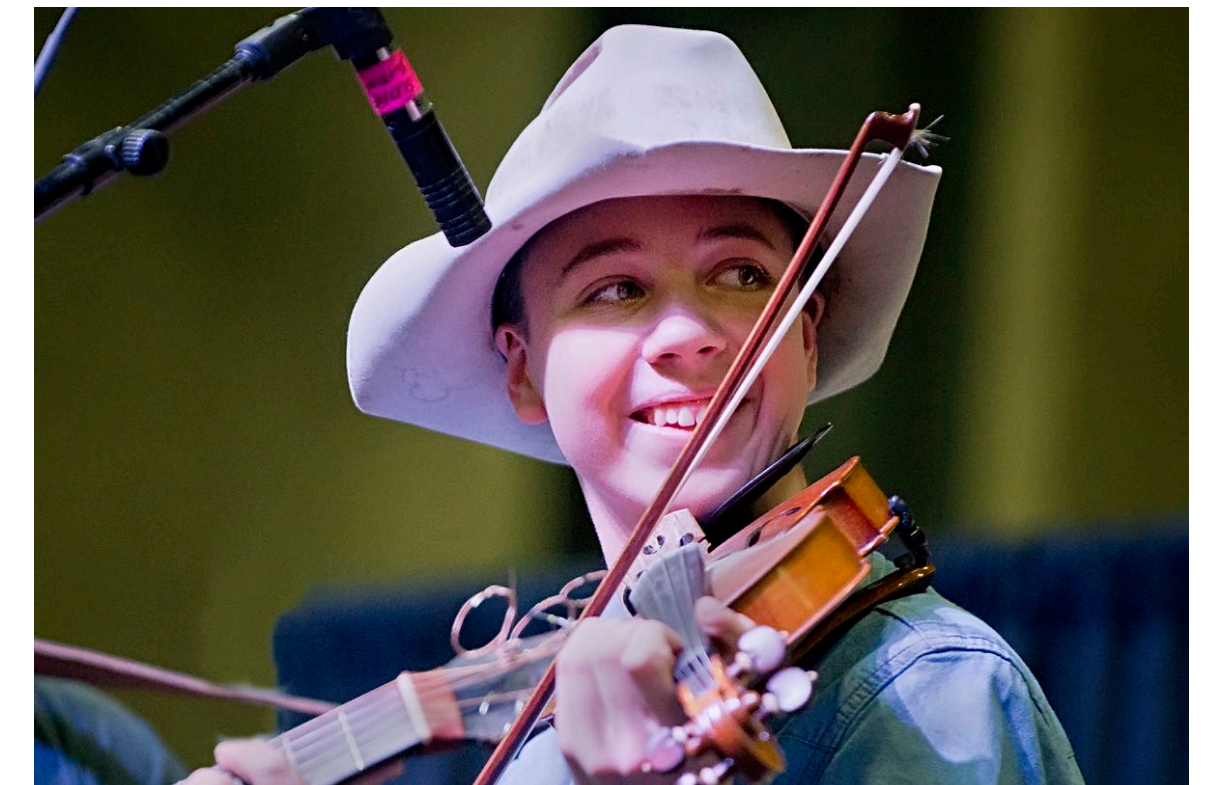
The Bob Wills Heritage Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, was established August 14, 2008. By educational and preservation efforts, partnerships, chances to tell his story and avenues to share his music, the Heritage Foundation is perpetuating the Bob Wills legacy, promoting the integrity of his music and his place in American history. (www.bobwills.com)

The Bob Wills Fiddle Festival & Contest will be held November 1 & 2, 2019, downtown Greenville, TX. Contest information can be found on Facebook: Bob Wills Fiddle Festival & Contest

Information on Bob Wills can be found at www.bobwills.com or on Facebook at Bob Wills Heritage Foundation, Inc.



Congratulations to the 2018
Bob Wills Division Champion
Ridge Roberts



2018 J.C. Broughton Rising Star Award - Michael Merrill

Michael Merrill, age 15, from Mounds, Oklahoma began playing the fiddle after seeing kids perform at the Tulsa State Fair (Oklahoma State Picking & Fiddling Championships).

He was taking classical violin lesson from Sheri Neubauer with his sisters and began turning the radio to bluegrass and playing along with the fiddle for hours. Sheri encourages Michael to experiment with fiddle tunes and developing his skills. Michael enjoys the styles of Herman Johnson and Byron Berline and is currently working through Herman Johnson's Master Fiddler book. The family often jokes that Michael will listen and play the song while others are still reading the sheet music.

Michael started competing at the Oklahoma State Fiddle Championships in 2011 and has learned a lot over the years. Since his three sisters also play fiddle, Michael took up the double bass, taking lessons from local accomplished bass teacher Jim Bates. He enjoys playing music with his dad Scott Merrill, his grandpa Dale Merrill, his sisters Megan, Morgan, and Maggie and his cousins Trey and Natalie Delozier. He performs with his family in music jam sessions and several times a month at the Burgundy Place Senior Center. He also performs on the double bass with his high school and Sistema Tulsa orchestra.

Along with the fiddle and double bass, Michael is learning mandolin and guitar. He has been blessed to work with talented local musicians and continues to develop his music skills as well as mentoring his younger sisters. Music is a passion for Michael and he's often found in his room trying to figure out the next song.



Michael Merrill receiving the 2018 J.C. Broughton Rising Star Award



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Workshops, Master Demonstrations, Amateur Fiddle Contest, Fish Fry & Jam Sessions!

For more information visit:
www.grandlakefestivals.com

2019 Oklahoma State Picking & Fiddling Championships Judges

Greg Burgess

Greg Burgess has been playing guitar and fiddle for over 40 years. Over the years, associations with fiddlers such as Clark Forshee, Amos Hedrick, Ace Sewell, Russell O'Neal, Herman Johnson, Dick Barrett, Orville Burns, Merle David, and of course Byron Berline, has helped form Greg's fiddling style. Greg is a past Oklahoma State Fiddle Champion and has been ranked in the top 10 at a number of national level fiddle contests. Greg has recorded and/or shared the stage with a number of musical greats including Hank Thompson, Leon Rausch, Jody Miller, Mel Tillis, Moe Bandy, Billy Walker, Wanda Jackson, Becky Hobbs, Red Steagall, Suzy Bogguss, Asleep at the Wheel and many others. Greg has also been included in the Folk Life section of the Oklahoma History Center and is a 2019 Western Swing Hall of Fame inductee.



Justin Branum

Justin Branum is a fiddler and multi-instrumentalist whose main work expertise lies in recording sessions/overdubs, touring, producing, and teaching music. Growing up playing western swing, bluegrass, country music, and old-time fiddle tunes, he was frequently playing in various instrument contests and has won the Grand Master Fiddler Contest, National Fiddle Contest (adult division), Tennessee State Fiddle Championship, Tennessee State Mandolin Championship, Texas State Fiddle Championship (Gone to Texas division) among many others before retiring from the contest scene. During his performing career based out of Nashville, TN, Justin has played with a wide range of touring acts and artists including Lee Ann Womack, Sons of the Pioneers, Son Volt, Pokey LaFarge, Bobby Flores and the Yellow Rose Band, Roland White, The Jim Hurst Trio, and Marty Haggard. He holds a master's degree in jazz studies from Webster University and served as an adjunct professor of music at Washington University and Webster University.



2019 Oklahoma State Picking & Fiddling Championships Judges

Byron Berline

Byron Berline is a three-time National Fiddle Champion who turned to a musical career after earning a B.A. in Physical Education at the University of Oklahoma. Originally from Oklahoma where he began playing the fiddle at age 5, Byron lived and worked in Los Angeles for 26 years before returning to his home state in 1995.

Byron's professional career reads like Who's Who in the music business. Byron is one of the most sought after session fiddlers and his long list of recording credits include: The Band, The Byrds, The Eagles, The Rolling Stones, Manhattan Transfer, Bob Dylan, John Denver, Elton John, Olivia Newton-John, Burt Reynolds, Linda Ronstadt, Rod Stewart, Kay Starr, Hoyt Axton, Alabama, Susie Bogguss, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Joe Diffie, Vince Gill, Arlo Guthrie, Mickey Gilley, Emmylou Harris, Kris Kristofferson, Johnny Lee, Willie Nelson, Red Steagall, Doug Stone, Tammy Wynette, Jethro Burns, The Dillards, John Hartford, Bill Monroe, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Don Reno, Earl Scruggs, Mason Williams, and numerous symphony orchestras.

Byron scored his first major motion picture in 1975, Stay Hungry for director Bob Rafelson. He has appeared in Star Trek, Blaze, Back To The Future III and Basic Instinct. He has been interviewed by major city newspapers and music magazines throughout the world, and has toured the United States extensively, Europe often, China, Japan, Australia, Northern Africa and the South Pacific. In his spare time Byron enjoys producing albums for his friends and himself.

Byron was inducted into Oklahoma's Musicians Hall of Fame, named Oklahoma's Ambassador of Goodwill, been featured artist at the International Convention of the Violin Society of America, and conceived and planned the Oklahoma International Bluegrass Festival since it's beginnings in 1997.

Byron Berline has been touted as "one of the most inventive fiddlers ever ...". His skill, versatility and artistry continue to be recognized by his peers, the press and audiences worldwide. He is a witty, charming personality and his music is evidence of that.



2019 Oklahoma State Picking & Fiddling Championships Rules

General Rules for All Contests

1. **Contestants need not reside in Oklahoma.** All are eligible.
2. Decisions of the judges and scoring table are final.
3. In case of rule infractions for which penalties are not specified, or for situations not foreseen by these rules, the judges and scoring table will determine an appropriate penalty ranging from nothing, up to disqualification.
4. Only acoustic, unamplified stringed instruments may be played.
5. Contestants may not use electronic pickups or contact microphones.
6. **Sign ups for each contest division will close 30 minutes prior to published start for that division. Drawing of numbers for playing order will take place 15 minutes prior to the published time for that division. Once drawing occurs, the division is closed.**

Banjo Rules

1. This is a two-round contest. The five highest-scoring contestants from Round One will compete in Round Two. The scores from Round One are added to those from Round Two to determine the finalists' finishing order.
2. A contestant must play **two songs in each round.**
3. Time limit for a round is **six minutes.**
4. Each song has a potential score of 100 points. Points will be awarded for arrangement, execution, tuning, show value and overall expression. A perfect score from all three judges would result in 600 points for a contestant.
5. These songs are not allowed; ***Foggy Mountain Breakdown, John Hardy, Earl's Breakdown and John Henry.***

String Band Rules

1. Judges are not sequestered.
2. Singing is allowed.
3. Any style of music is allowed.
4. No one may appear in more than one string band.
5. Contestants must use provided microphones.
6. **String Bands are allowed to play up to 3 songs for a total playing time of no longer than 10 minutes.**
7. There are no judging criteria. It's purely subjective. The judges will give the highest scores to the bands they like the best.

General Rules for Other Contests

1. **Judges are sequestered.**
2. Relatives of judges may not compete.
3. Contestants draw for order of appearance prior to each round.
4. **Contestants must give their song list to the registration table prior to drawing for position.**
5. Contestants may not trade playing positions.
6. Contestants may not register to compete once the drawing for playing position has started.
7. Contestants who are unready to play when called, at the judges' discretion, receive zero points for that round.
8. Contestants are allowed only one instrument on stage.
9. Contestants may not repeat a song.
10. Contestants may not play a medley.
11. **Contestants may not speak** (or cough or laugh) near the microphone. A contestant who does so will, at the judges' discretion, receive zero points for that round.
12. The scoring table is responsible for **enforcing time limits.** There is no penalty for the first 10 seconds over the time limit. Thereafter, five points will be deducted for each 10 seconds over the time limit.
13. In case of a broken string, slipped peg, fallen bridge or other instrument malfunctions, a contestant will have five minutes without penalty to recover and restart the song.
14. In the event of a tie, a one-song playoff will take place.
15. Protest notification forms will be available at the scoring table. Protests should be filed proactively – as soon as a rule violation happens, not later when it appears that the scoring table or judges didn't notice the violation.
16. Judges' score sheets will be put immediately into a binder that must remain at the scoring table for public view.

2019 Oklahoma State Picking & Fiddling Championships Rules

Fiddle Rules

1. Contestants must play in their age division, based on their age on Sept. 28, 2019. However, any fiddler may elect to compete in the Championship (Open) division instead of (NOT in addition to) his age division. Fiddlers have the option to enter the Bob Wills Division (2 rounds for top 5) in addition to their age division or Open Division.
2. The Oklahoma State Champion (Open) division is a two-round contest. The five highest-scoring contestants from Round One will compete in Round Two. The scores from Round One are added to those from Round Two to determine the finalists' finishing order.
3. All other fiddle divisions are one-round contests.
4. In each round a contestant must play, in this order, a **hoedown** (including breakdown, hornpipe, or reel), a **waltz**, and **something else besides** a hoedown or waltz: (blues, jig, rag, polka, Schottische, swing, etc.)
5. Cross-tuning is not allowed.
6. **These songs are not allowed: *Listen to the Mockingbird, Orange Blossom Special, and Black Mountain Rag.***
7. Judges may limit the number of songs in a round if necessary to maintain the schedule.
8. Time limit for a round is **six minutes** for all divisions except Championship (Open), which has a limit of **seven minutes**.
9. Each song has a potential score of 100 points. Points will be awarded for rhythm, timing, tone and intonation; authenticity, taste, expression, and execution. A perfect score from all three judges would result in 900 points for a contestant.
10. Contestants may have up to **three accompanists**. The only acceptable backup instruments are acoustic guitar, acoustic tenor guitar and acoustic bass.

Bob Wills Fiddle Division Rules

1. This is a two-round contest. The five highest-scoring contestants from Round One will compete in Round Two. The scores from Round One are added to those from Round Two to determine the finalists' finishing order.
2. **Contestants will play two tunes in the first round and one tune in the second round.**
3. Bob Wills division contestants must play tunes associated with our heroes - Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys! Judges ask contestants to play reasonably within the boundaries of Western swing style (disco, hip-hop, Justin Bieber, etc. versions of 'Take Me Back to Tulsa' will probably not be scored very high!!) - however, contestants will have the freedom to play it straight or swing like crazy!
4. Since this is a judged fiddle division, we ask that contestants keep the fiddle as the only lead instrument (singing will be allowed, but only the fiddling will be judged).
5. **Time limit for a round is six minutes.**

Mandolin & Flatpick Guitar Rules

1. These are two-round contests. The five highest-scoring contestants from Round One will compete in Round Two. The scores from Round One are added to those from Round Two to determine the finalists' finishing order.
2. A contestant must play **two songs in each round**.
3. Time limit for a round is **six minutes**.
4. Each song has a potential score of 100 points. Points will be awarded for arrangement, execution, tuning, show value and overall expression. A perfect score from all three judges would result in 600 points for a contestant.
5. Contestants may have **one accompanist**.
6. A=440 tuning is required. For flatpick guitar, the low E (6th) string may be changed to any note desired, not limiting the tuning of the 6th string to "Drop D" or a low D note but to any desired pitch. No other string tuning or variance from the standard E (1), B (2), G (3), D (4), A (5) will be permitted.
7. Standard capos are allowed. Capos like the Third Hand Capo, which allow alteration of individual strings, are not allowed.
8. Contestants must play with a flat pick. No fingerpicking at all.

Fingerstyle Guitar Rules

1. This is a two-round contest. The five highest-scoring contestants from Round One will compete in Round Two. The scores from Round One are added to those from Round Two to determine the finalists' finishing order.
2. A contestant must play **two songs in each round**.
3. Time limit for a round is **six minutes**.
4. Each song has a potential score of 100 points. Points will be awarded for arrangement, execution, tuning, show value and overall expression. A perfect score from all three judges would result in 600 points for a contestant.
5. Alternate tunings are allowed.
6. Twelve-string guitars are allowed.
7. Contestants may play any style of music, but not with a flat pick or slide. Thumb and finger picks are allowed.