

## Woody Guthrie Folk Festival Songwriting Competition

### Official Rules

The Oklahoma Songwriters & Composers Association, in association with the Woody Guthrie Coalition, is proud to present the Annual Woody Guthrie Folk Festival Songwriting Competition. This international, folk-oriented songwriting contest is held in conjunction with the annual Woody Guthrie Folk Festival, held in Woody's hometown of Okemah, Oklahoma, each July. This year's Festival dates are July 15 - 19, 2020. Okemah, the county seat of Okfuskee County, is located on Interstate 40 in east-central Oklahoma, and is 70 miles equidistant from Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

**Song Criteria:** Songs should represent the spirit of Woody Guthrie's music and may fall into one or more of these general areas: topical songs about current events, songs containing political or social commentary, folk ballads, songs relative to Americana and related topics, and songs for children and/or pertaining to family life. Both traditional and newer styles of folk are encouraged. Songs must be original and should be copyrighted at time of entry.

#### **Song Submission & Fees:**

Songs are to be submitted online at <http://www.woodyfest.com/songwriting.html>. A maximum of three songs may be entered per submission, but multiple submissions are permitted. The entry fee is \$20.00 for the first song and \$10.00 for each additional song payable via PayPal. All entries must be submitted by 10am CT on April 30, 2020.

**Judging:** Entries will be judged on originality, melody, lyrics, rhythm, and relevance to the criteria. Entries will not be judged on production or performance. Professional songwriters, publishers, or other music industry professionals will judge all contest entries. All decisions by judges will be final.

**Eligibility:** The Woody Guthrie Folk Festival Songwriting Contest is open to amateur songwriters. For the purposes of this contest, an amateur songwriter is defined as someone who doesn't have a song which has been commercially released, nor is represented by professional management as a songwriter. Songs released independently with a total issue of 1,000 copies or less are acceptable. Entrants under 18 years of age must submit an affidavit of parental guardian approval, and attached to the entry form.

The signed entry form releases OSCA from product and all other liability and allows OSCA, and the Woody Guthrie Coalition, the use of winners' names, song titles, lyrics, addresses and e-mail addresses for contest promotional purposes and to provide to our sponsors, without further compensation to the winner. In the event co-writers win, the division of prizes will be the responsibility of the person whose name is listed first on the entry form.

**Winners and Prizes:** The first place winner will receive \$500.00 and an invitation to perform a 20-minute set on the main stage at the 2020 Woody Guthrie Folk Festival in Okemah, Oklahoma. Second and third place winners will receive \$200.00 and \$100.00, respectively, and will be offered the opportunity to perform their winning songs, should they be present at the Festival. The winners will be expected to perform their songs live, without the aid of recorded backup. First, second, and third place winners will be announced prior to the 2020 Festival and notified immediately by the quickest possible means. Winners will be responsible for their own transportation and lodging.

Please direct any questions to Tom Marshall at [booking.tom.marshall@gmail.com](mailto:booking.tom.marshall@gmail.com). Best of luck!