



THE BIG SQUEEZE ACCORDION CONTEST 2017 – OFFICIAL RULES

Mission Statement

This will be the 11th year for The Big Squeeze Accordion Contest. We are excited to find and showcase accordion talent! It is a statewide contest where accordion players ages 21 and under will showcase their performance abilities in three main accordion genre categories: **Polka, Cajun / Zydeco and Conjunto**. The Polka genre will include German, Czech, and Polish traditions. Cajun / Zydeco will include Creole, Cajun and Zydeco musical traditions. Conjunto will include Norteño and Tejano. Please contact Texas Folklife if you are unsure under which category your music falls. Showcases will be free, open to the public, and feature performances by local musicians.

The Big Squeeze Contest and Texas Folklife strive to represent the state's geographic and cultural diversity. Since 2007, 182 young musicians from more than 32 Texas towns and cities have participated. Contestants represent communities across this Great State, including the Rio Grande Valley, Houston, Greater Dallas Area, San Antonio, Lubbock, the Permian Basin and more!

This program is made possible by our Sponsors. The Big Squeeze is supported by the members and Board of Texas Folklife, Hohner, Inc., and the Texas Music Office; and by grants from the Texas Commission on the Arts, the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department, H-E-B, the City of Houston through the Miller Theatre Advisory Board, and the Houston Endowment. Additional support is provided by regional partners including Hacienda Records, Conjunto Heritage Taller, Cajun Sounds Internet Radio, www.zydecoevents.com, Texas Polka News, Corpus Christi Public Library System, Café 4212, Multicultural Engagement & Counseling through the Arts (MECA), Larry's French Market & Cajun Restaurant, The Museum of Street Culture and the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center.

Read on for the locations for 2017 and/or details on how to enter...

How to Enter The Big Squeeze 2017

So, you want to participate in the Big Squeeze 2017? Follow these steps!

- 1) Read the entry rules – so finish this document!
- 2) Fill out the entry form.
 - a) To fill out the form online, GO HERE: http://bit.ly/squeeze_2017
 - b) To download the paper version of the form, then print, fill it out and send it to us, GO HERE: http://bit.ly/paper_squeeze_2017
- 3) Decide if you are going to perform at a showcase in person **or** submit two songs digitally.
 - a) Applicants can enter by performing two songs at a showcase where they will be videotaped by Texas Folklife or submit a video entry digitally, by mail or e-mail. **They do not have to do both.**
 - b) If unable to attend in person, that is OK – you can still enter by submitting your song performances digitally by doing any of the below. Make sure you indicate on your form how we should expect your submission.
 - i) Submit with your online form at http://bit.ly/squeeze_2017
 - ii) Mailing a USB Drive with video and photo to The Big Squeeze at: Texas Folklife c/o The Big Squeeze 1708 Houston Street Austin, TX 78756
 - iii) Mailing a DVD with my video and photo to The Big Squeeze at: Texas Folklife c/o The Big Squeeze 1708 Houston Street Austin, TX 78756
 - iv) E-mailing a YouTube Link with my video and a photo to bigsqueeze@texasfolklife.org
 - v) E-mailing a video from my phone and a photo to bigsqueeze@texasfolklife.org

Big Squeeze Showcase Dates & Locations

- Sunday, February 12, 2017 – Corpus Christi, TX – McDonald Public Library
- Saturday, February 18, 2017 – Houston, TX – Café 4212
- Sunday, February 19, 2017 – Houston, TX – Multicultural Engagement & Counseling Through the Arts (MECA)
- Saturday, March 4, 2017 – Groves / Nederland, TX – Larry's French Market & Cajun Restaurant
- Saturday, March 25, 2017 – Dallas, TX – Museum of Street Culture
- Sunday, March 26, 2017 – San Antonio, TX – Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center
- Other dates in the Rio Grande Valley to be announced!

Once again, if you can't make it to a showcase, you can submit your songs digitally. Read section called "How To Enter The Big Squeeze 2017."

Big Squeeze 2017 Judging & Rounds

- **Round 1:** All entrants submit their songs either digitally or in the mail and/or perform at one of the roaming accordion showcases. The three main accordion genre categories: **Polka, Cajun / Zydeco and Conjunto**.
 - After receiving submissions in the mail, digitally and seeing performances at each regional showcase, a panel of esteemed musicians and music industry judges will use a numerical ranking system to select up to three finalists in each musical category.
 - Judging criteria will include: song interpretation, technical skill, originality, execution and stage presence.
- **Round 2:** Three Regional Finalists in each of the three main accordion genre categories (**Polka, Cajun / Zydeco and Conjunto**) will be announced the week of April 3, 2017. Regional Finalists will perform for prizes at the Big Squeeze Accordion Finals on Saturday April 22, 2017 at the Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin (hotel provided by Texas Folklife on April 21-22).
 - Regional Finalists will perform their two songs accompanied by a house band of professional players provided by Texas Folklife.
 - Regional Finalists may bring one accompanist of their own, if that is preferred. However, Texas Folklife will not cover that person's hotel room or travel costs.
 - The band will receive copies of each finalist's songs and rehearse in advance. Contestants will be given 10 minutes to go over the selection with the band.
- **Round 3:** One Grand Prize Winner in each of the three main accordion genre categories (**Polka, Cajun / Zydeco and Conjunto**) will perform for prizes at the Accordion Kings & Queens Festival - Saturday June 3, 2017 at the Miller Outdoor Theatre in Houston (hotel and dinner provided).
 - The three (3) Grand Prize Winners will perform their two songs live at the Accordion Kings & Queens festival on June 3, 2017 at Houston's Miller Outdoor Theatre, accompanied by the house band.
 - Grand Prize Winners may bring one accompanist of their own, if that is preferred. However, Texas Folklife will not cover that person's hotel room or travel costs.

Big Squeeze 2017 Prizes

- Regional Finalists win:
 - Hotel accommodations and meals in Austin for two nights;
 - Promotional support and performance opportunities from Texas Folklife;
 - \$100 cash and other special gifts;
 - Other items TBA.
- The Grand Prize Winners win:
 - A new Hohner accordion;
 - Promotional support and performance opportunities from Texas Folklife;
 - Additional cash award;
 - 2017 performance opportunities in Austin and Houston.

All selections, contest outcomes and prizes are awarded at the discretion of Texas Folklife and Big Squeeze judges. This contest may be canceled at any time.



1708 Houston Street / Austin, Texas 78756

T 512 441 9255 F 844 386 2091

texasfolklife.org

Criteria For Entry

- Must be 21 years old or younger on June 4, 2017. Applicants that turn 22 on or after June 4, 2017 are NOT eligible.
- Entrants confirm that if I am under 18 and picked as a finalist, I am required to provide written permission from a parent or guardian.
- Applicants must currently be a resident of the State of Texas.
- Applicants must include photo with entry form to be considered.
- Applicants must submit complete entry form to be considered.
- Applicants can enter by performing two songs at a showcase where they will be videotaped by Texas Folklife or submit a video entry digitally, by mail or e-mail. **They do not have to do both.**
- If chosen for the contest, the two songs submitted must be performed.
- If selected as a Regional Finalist, entrants will need to come to Austin on Saturday, April 22, 2017 to perform/compete at the Bullock Texas State History Museum.
- If selected as a Grand Prize Winner, entrants will be required to perform Saturday, June 3, 2017 in Houston at Accordion Kings & Queens Festival.
- Entrants agree to participate in video, audio, archival and social media documentation of the contest.
- Entrants grant Texas Folklife or its representatives the right to record and reproduce their performances and allow the use of their names and likenesses in promotion. Texas Folklife upholds all copyright laws, the contestants will not be held liable for any rights infringement.
- Entrants have read and understand the Big Squeeze Accordion Contest 2017 Official Rules.
- Entrants confirm that my contact information will be provided to Texas Folklife for future years of this program and for our Public Relations and Community Outreach efforts within the participating communities and their media outlets.
- Entrants authorize the verification of the information provided on this form.
- Entrants understand I can be disqualified at any time, at the discretion of Texas Folklife.
- Entrants understand that all selections, contest outcomes and prizes are awarded at the discretion of Texas Folklife.
- Entrants understand that this contest may be canceled at any time.

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Call us at the number listed above or send an email to bigsqueeze@texasfolklife.org.

We can't wait to see you at the next show!



THE BIG SQUEEZE ACCORDION CONTEST 2017 – ENTRY FORM

***This form must be filled out completely to be considered for the contest.

***Applicants can enter by performing two songs at a showcase where they will be videotaped by Texas Folklife or submit a video entry digitally, by mail or e-mail. **They do not have to do both.**

***New to 2017, all applicants must include a photo.

***Be sure to print clearly.

***This form can also be filled out online at: <http://www.texasfolklife.org/how-to-bigsqueeze-2017>

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:

Age:
 Date of birth:
*(Must be 21 years old or younger on June 4, 2017.
 Applicants that turn 22 on or after June 4, 2017 are not eligible.)*

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

Current address:

City & Zip Code:

What School Do You Go To?

What Grade Are You In?

E-mail:

What Genre of Music Do You Play?
(Examples: Conjunto, Polka, Zydeco, Cajun, Etc.)

How Long Have You Been Playing?

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION, IF PARTICIPANT IS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

Name:

Current address:

City:

Zip Code:

E-mail:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

Other:

VIDEO SONG SUBMISSION FOR THE CONTEST

*****Applicants can enter by performing two songs at a showcase where they will be videotaped by Texas Folklife or submit a video entry digitally, by mail or e-mail. **They do not have to do both.**

***If chosen for the contest, the two songs listed here must be performed.

SONG #1 – Song Title:	Song length (Must be under four minutes long):
Composer, if known:	Genre? Examples: Conjunto, Polka, Zydeco, Cajun, Etc...
SONG #2 – Song Title:	Song length (Must be under four minutes long):
Composer, if known:	Genre? Examples: Conjunto, Polka, Zydeco, Cajun, Etc...

**HOW ARE YOU SUBMITTING YOUR PHOTO AND VIDEO OF YOUR TWO SONGS FOR THE CONTEST?
 PLEASE CIRCLE THE ONE THAT APPLIES.**

Mailing a USB Drive with my video and photo to The Big Squeeze at: <i>Texas Folklife c/o The Big Squeeze 1708 Houston Street Austin, TX 78756</i>	Mailing a DVD with my video and photo to The Big Squeeze at: <i>Texas Folklife c/o The Big Squeeze 1708 Houston Street Austin, TX 78756</i>	E-mailing a YouTube Link with my video and a photo to bigsqueeze@texasfolklife.org	E-mailing a video from my phone and a photo to bigsqueeze@texasfolklife.org	Other (Please Describe):
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PERSONAL INFORMATION – TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOU.

***If you run out of space, totally OK. You can use the back or another piece of paper.

***If you want to tell us anything else, go for it!

How did you become interested in playing accordion?	
How old were you when you started? What inspires you?	
Who is your accordion teacher?	Are you aware of Texas Folklife's Apprenticeship program?
Who are your musical influences?	
Have you performed before? When? Where?	What are your Accordion dreams?

ACCOMPANYING MUSICIAN INFORMATION:

***If a friend, teacher or any other musician will be performing to support you, please list their information here. This is not a requirement.

Name:	Instrument:
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Name:	Instrument:
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Name:	Instrument:
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HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS PROGRAM? PLEASE CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY.

Online	School	Retail Shop	Flyer	Print Ad
Radio Ad	Social Media	Friend	Family Member	Other: _____

SIGNATURES

By checking the below boxes:

- I confirm that if selected as a Regional Finalist, I will need to come to Austin on Saturday, April 22, 2017 to perform/compete at the Bullock Texas State History Museum.
- I confirm that if chosen as a Grand Prize Winner, I will be required to perform Saturday, June 3 2017 in Houston at Accordion Kings & Queens Festival.
- I confirm that by entering this contest, I am agreeing to participate in video, audio, archival and social media documentation of the contest.
- I confirm that I have read and understand the Big Squeeze Accordion Contest 2017 Official Rules, which are listed separately.
- I confirm that I am a resident of the State of Texas.
- I confirm that I am 21 years old or younger. This means I will be 21 or younger on June 4, 2017. Applicants that turn 22 on or after June 4, 2017 are not eligible.
- I confirm that if I am under 18 and picked as a finalist, I am required to provide written permission from a parent or guardian.
- I confirm that my contact information will be provided to Texas Folklife for future years of this program and for our Public Relations and Community Outreach efforts within the participating communities and their media outlets.
- I authorize the verification of the information provided on this form.
- I understand I can be disqualified at any time, at the discretion of Texas Folklife.

Signature of applicant (guardian if under 18):	Date:
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*** ACCORDION CONTEST ***

BIG SQUEEZE TALENT SHOWCASES
ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- 2/4 - LOS FRESNOS, TX - LOS FRESNOS HIGH SCHOOL
- 2/10 - LA JOYA, TX - LA JOYA HIGH SCHOOL
- 2/12 - CORPUS CHRISTI, TX - MCDONALD PUBLIC LIBRARY
- 2/18 - HOUSTON, TX - CAFE 4212
- 2/18 - HOUSTON, TX - MECA (MULTICULTURAL ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION THROUGH THE ARTS)
- 3/4 - GROVES / NEDERLAND, TX - LARRY'S (MEXICAN/AMERICAN RESTAURANT)
- 3/25 - DALLAS, TX - SOB AMPHITHEATER AT ENCORE PARK
(SPONSORED BY THE MUSEUM OF STREET CULTURE)
- 3/26 - SAN ANTONIO, TX - GUADALUPE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

THE BIG SQUEEZE FINALS

4/22 - AUSTIN, TX - THE BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM

FREE AND ACCORDION PLAYERS ARE WELCOME
ALL GENRES WELCOME
FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT US ONLINE: WWW.BIGSQUEEZE.COM

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