

The Big Squeeze Contest

2009 official rules

Calendar

- **Deadline for entries: MONDAY MARCH 2, 2009**
(received by e-mail or postmarked)
- **Semi-Finalists Announced: April 1, 2009**
- **Semi-Finals: Saturday, May 2, 2009 in Austin**
- **Finals: Saturday, June 6, 2009 in Houston**

Criteria for entry

- Open to Texas and Louisiana residents **25 years old or younger**
- Open to players who are not making a living or earning a significant portion of their income by performing professionally.

Entry format

- Please submit audio recordings of two songs. Each song should be no more than 4 minutes in length. Acceptable formats are: **CD, MP3 or WAV file, cassette, or VHS with audio.**
- Entry forms and music **MUST** be submitted together, via e-mail, regular mail or delivery to the Texas Folklife office in Austin. Entries must be received or postmarked by **MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009**. (March 1 falls on a Sunday)

Conditions for entry

- If selected for the semi-finals, contestants must travel to Austin on **Saturday, May 2 (1pm – 5pm)**; finalists will travel to Houston for the finals on **Saturday, June 6**.
- If selected to compete as a semi-finalist and finalist, you must play the same two songs submitted for judging.
- Semi-finalists and finalists 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.)

Judging

- There will be two age categories at the semi-finals: age 18 and under, and 19 to 25
- A panel of esteemed musicians and music industry judges will use a numerical ranking system to select up to four semi-finalists in each category.
- **Semi-finals May 2, 2009 1-5pm @ the Mexican American Cultural Center in Austin (hotel room provided):** Semi-finalists will perform their two songs accompanied by a house band of professional players provided by Texas Folklife (you may bring one accompanist, if you prefer.) The band will receive copies of each semi-finalist's songs and rehearse in advance. Contestants will be given 5 minutes to go over the selection with the band. Up to two finalists will be selected in each age category. Judging criteria will include: song interpretation, technical skill, originality,

execution and stage presence. These **Finalists** will each be awarded **\$300 cash** and will go on to compete for the Grand Prize in Houston.

- **Finals June 6, 2009 evening @ Miller Outdoor Theatre in Houston (hotel and meals provided):** Up to four finalists will perform their same two songs live at the Accordion Kings & Queens festival June 6 at Houston's Miller Outdoor Theatre, accompanied by the house band* In addition to the previous judging criteria, audience response will help determine the grand-prize winner.

* You may bring one accompanist of your own, if desired; however, Texas Folklife will not cover that person's hotel or meals.

Prizes

- **Finalists win:**
 - The opportunity to compete for the **Grand Prize** at the famous "Accordion Kings & Queens" festival
 - \$300 cash and other special gifts
 - Promotional support and performance opportunities from Texas Folklife
 - Hotel accommodations and meals in Houston
- **The Grand Prize Winner receives:**
 - An all-expense-paid trip to perform in Germany, as a guest of Hohner, Inc.
 - A full day of recording time at the historic SugarHill Recording Studios in Houston, as well as travel expenses for the recording session
 - Plus -- promotional support and performance opportunities from SugarHill Recording Studios and Texas Folklife

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