

The Big Squeeze Contest

2013 official rules

Calendar

- Deadline for registrations: by location or received by e-mail or postal service by April 1, 2013 – arrive by date (not postmark date)
- Semi-Finalists Announced: April 5, 2013
- Semi-Finals: April 20 in Austin at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum
- Finals: Saturday, June 1 in Houston during the Accordion Kings & Queens Concert at the Miller Outdoor Theater

Criteria for entry

- Open to applicants **21 years old or younger**. Entrants that turn 22 on or before June 1, 2013 are not eligible.
- Must currently reside in Texas.

How to Enter

- Participants may reserve an audition slot in any city by e-mailing (srucker@texasfolklife.org) or calling-in (512-441-9255) the information detailed in the entry form (available at www.TexasFolklife.org). Contestants may also register by arriving up to 1 hour prior to the scheduled audition time at each site. Please check website for updated audition times and sites. **Auditions will be held in the following cities and locations:**

Houston: Saturday, February 23rd Talento Bilingue de Houston
Sunday, February 24th The Big Easy Social Club

Edinburg: Saturday, March 2 University of Texas Pan American, Student Union

Corpus Christi: Sunday, March 3 Hacienda Records & Recording Studio

San Antonio: Friday, March 8 Gallista Gallery sponsored by Conjunto Heritage Taller

Tomball: March 23rd Tomball German Heritage Festival, Bluegrass Stage

Dallas: Sunday, March 24th Latino Cultural Center sponsored by the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs

Los Fresnos: Saturday, March 30 Los Fresnos High School

There will be acoustic accompaniment provided by Texas Folklife at each live audition. Participant may choose to bring one musician to accompany him/her instead. Each audition is open to the public and followed by a short set of live music.

PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS ON AUDITION SITES AND TIMES:
WWW.TEXASFOLKLIFE.ORG

- Interested contestants who cannot attend an audition site **may mail in an entry**. Entry forms can be downloaded from www.TexasFolklife.org. Please submit audio recordings of two songs. Each song should be no more than 4 minutes in length. Acceptable formats are: **audio or video 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 by April 1, 2013** (not a postmark deadline.)

Conditions for entry

- If selected for the semi-finals, contestants must travel to Austin on or by **Saturday, April 20, 2013**; finalists will travel to Houston for the finals on **Saturday, June 1, 2013**.
- 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

- A panel of esteemed musicians and music industry judges will use a numerical ranking system to select up to four semi-finalists in each age category. Judging criteria will include: song interpretation, technical skill, originality, execution and stage presence. Judging during the finals will include the same categories as the semifinals.
- **Semi-finals April 20, 2013 2-5:30pm @ the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum (hotel and dinner 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 four **finalists** will be selected and be awarded **\$250 cash** and will go on to compete for the Grand Prize in Houston.
- **Finals June 1, 2013 evening @ Miller Outdoor Theatre in Houston (hotel and dinner provided):** Up to four finalists will perform their same two songs live at the Accordion Kings & Queens festival June 1st at Houston's Miller Outdoor Theatre, accompanied by the house band*
* You may bring one accompanist of your own, if desired; however, Texas Folklife will not cover that person's hotel room.

Prizes

- **Semi-finalists win:**
 - Hotel accommodations and meals in Austin
 - Promotional support and performance opportunities from Texas Folklife and other special gifts
- **Finalists win:**
 - The opportunity to compete for the **Grand Prize** at the famous "Accordion Kings & Queens" festival
 - **\$250 cash** and other special gifts
 - Promotional support and performance opportunities from Texas Folklife
 - Hotel accommodations and meals in Houston
- **The Grand Prize Winner receives:**
 - A new Hohner accordion
 - Promotional support and performance opportunities from SugarHill Recording Studios and Texas Folklife
 - Cash award
 - Big Squeeze 2014 tour including paid performance opportunities in Austin and Houston

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