

Fingerstyle Collective **Online** Guitar Competition

Legal Rules Page

Effective January 1, 2020

**NO PURCHASE OF ANY KIND IS NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. A PURCHASE OF SPONSOR PRODUCTS**

**WILL NOT IMPROVE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING**

**SPONSORS:** The Fingerstyle Collective Music Competition (the “Competition”) is sponsored by:Fretmonkey, Candyrat Records, Mayson Guitars, University of Arkansas, Stonebridge Guitars International, Tonewood Amp, Elite Acoustics Amplifiers, D’Addario, and others noted on the event website and is subject to the following terms and conditions.

The Fingerstyle Collective Guitar Festival is partially funded by the Fingerstyle Collective International Foundation, a nonprofit public charity which promotes, supports, and encourages the sharing of world music culture in the fingerstyle guitar artform by way of live performances and teaching workshops.

**ELIGIBILITY:** An Entrant (Individual) must be sixteen (16) years of age or older at the time of entry, and possess a valid form of identification (no top age limit). An Entrant under the age of eighteen (18) shall require parental consent to participate due to international travel involved in prize winnings. Invalid or ineligible entries shall be excluded from consideration. Employees of Sponsors, their respective parents, subsidiaries, affiliated companies, and agents, and foregoing employees’ household or immediate family members (defined as parent, spouse, child, sibling, or grandparent) are NOT eligible to enter Contest. By their submission of entry, Entrants warrant they are legally entitled and authorized to make such submission on their own behalf. In the event of a dispute as to the winner’s identity, entries will be deemed made by the holder of the email account associated with the entry. Void where prohibited by law or restricted. Subject to all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.

The Contest is open to Non-Professional & Semi-Professional Musicians of all nationalities. An Entrant may not be a Professional Musician and may not be signed to any major label with world-wide distribution. Professional Musicians are defined as a musician who is making 100% of his/her living from professional music endeavors such as teaching music lessons (i.e. 30-60 full time students); touring full- time with a band; doing session work full-time (records, t.v., film, commercials, pit orchestras, etc). For example, if an applicant teaches a few students or does some gigs, shows and sessions, they would not be considered a Professional Musician. We realize it is subjective defining what a Non-Professional or Semi-Professional is but we are providing some general definitions for guidance. The qualifications of a Non-Professional Musician will ultimately be at the discretion of the Fingerstyle Collective Management Team.

**Contestants can apply for either the Fingerstyle Collective Online Competition or the Fingerstyle Collective Live Competition, but cannot apply for both competitions during the same year. If an applicant submits to both competitions during the same year, by default the submission will only be considered in the Online Competition category and no refund will be given for additional submission categories. Previous Fingerstyle Collective Online Competition Grand Prize Winners (1st Place) cannot re-apply, however previous Semi-finalists (2nd and 3rd Place Winners) in the Online Competition, as well as previous Fingerstyle Collective applicants may re-apply. Online Competition Grand Prize Winners (1st Place) are eligible to apply for the Live Competition in subsequent years.**

**TIMING:** Online contest begins on January 1, 2020 and continues until September 12, 2020. **Entries must be received by 11:59am (PST) on August 15, 2020** to be eligible. Winners will be announced no later than September 12, 2020 after judges have given their final scores. Online competition registration is $40 USD.

**HOW TO ENTER:** Entrants must submit two (2) unedited YouTube Videos, no longer than 5 minutes each and with no camera stops, of themselves playing their instrument by completing the registration form found at [www.fingerstylecollective.com](http://www.fingerstylecollective.com)

Entries may be comprised of original songs, arrangements, or covers. Only one submission allowed per applicant. If multiple entries are submitted, only the first submission will be considered and all entries after the original submission will be void. Contestants MUST use a steel string or nylon string acoustic guitar. Any number of strings and string configurations will be accepted. (ie. 6-string, 7-string, 8-string, 12-string, baritone, harp guitar, etc. are all allowed.) Contestants MUST NOT use anything except their fingers to play their guitar. The only exceptions are a thumbpick that is attached to the player’s thumb, or a slide placed over a player’s finger. (ie. Flat picks, E-Bows, violin bows, chopsticks, etc. are not allowed.) Contestants MUST NOT use any non-stringed instrument that attaches to their guitar. (ie. Kalimbas, harmonicas, percussive instruments, etc. are not allowed.) Contestants MUST NOT use any amplification, or outboard effects to enhance their performances. (ie. Looping, digital delay, overdrive, modulation, etc. are not allowed.)

The following must accompany each video submission for your entry to be complete on

registration form which can be found on the Fingerstyle Collective Guitar Festival website (www.fingerstylecollective.com): 1) Applicant’s name, address, email, telephone number, and age; and 2) a non-refundable application fee, submitted via Paypal or credit card through registration form. Incomplete entries will not be considered. For any questions regarding the Application Process, please contact Mark Grover at [mark@fretmonkeyrecords.com](mailto:mark@fretmonkeyrecords.com)

**JUDGING:** A panel of professional musicians will evaluate the videos on the basis of technique, interpretation, and artistry and select the winners.

So that we may judge the contest objectively and equally, the criteria with

assigned weight values is suggested to be considered by the judges:

***ARRANGEMENT*** *(40 Points) – Contestant’s version of the tune selected. Difficulty and originality will be considered.*

***EXECUTION, TUNING*** *(40 Points) – Fingering, picking, and dynamics will be considered.*

***SHOW VALUE*** *(10 Points) – Would the music resonate with an audience (appeal)? Contribute to the genre of fingerstyle guitar?*

***OVERALL IMPRESSION*** *(10 Points) – Is it innovative? Progressive? Modern? Well executed? (In other words; Does it stand out in some way?)*

Three (3) finalists will be selected and ranked. They will be contacted by email and/or phone no later than September 12, 2020.

Sponsors reserve the right to reject any entry that they deem in their sole discretion to be vulgar,

profane, offensive, or inappropriate. All decisions of the judges are final. Sponsors reserve the right to modify these Official Rules for clarification purposes without materially affecting the term and conditions of the Contest. Failure to enforce any term of these Official Rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision.

**CONDITIONS:** Neither the Sponsors nor their respective agencies or affiliates are responsible for lost,late, damaged, destroyed, delayed, stolen, misdirected, incomplete entries, or for lost, interrupted or unavailable network, server or other connections, miscommunications, failed telephone or computer hardware or software or other technical failures, unauthorized human intervention, garbled or jumbled transmissions or other errors of any kind, whether human, mechanical or electronic, including without limitation, the incorrect or inaccurate capture of entry information online regardless of cause. Sponsors reserve the right, at their sole discretion, to cancel, suspend, or modify the Contest if it becomes corrupted in any manner such that it cannot be conducted as originally planned and, in such event, to select winners from all eligible entries received prior to and/or after (if appropriate) the action taken by Sponsors. In such event, Sponsors shall have no liability to any Entrant who is disqualified due to such an action. ANY ATTEMPT BY ANY PERSON TO DELIBERATELY DAMAGE THE WEBSITE OR ONLINE ENTRY SYSTEM, OR UNDERMINE THE LEGITIMATE OPERATION OF THE CONTEST IS IN VIOLATION OF CRIMINAL AND CIVIL LAWS AND IF SUCH AN ATTEMPT BE MADE, SPONSORS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO SEEK REMEDIES AND DAMAGES FROM ANY SUCH PERSON TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, INCLUDING CRIMINAL PROSECUTION.

**LAW:** The Contest is subject to all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Void where prohibited or restricted. All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation, and enforceability of these Official Rules, or the rights and obligations of Entrants or Sponsor in connection with any award, shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with the laws of, the State of Arkansas, without regard to conflict of law principles. Any cause of action by you with respect to the offer (and/or any information, products or services related thereto) must be instituted within one (1) year after the cause of action arose or be forever waived and barred. All actions shall be subject to the limitations set forth above. The language in these Official Rules shall be interpreted as in accordance with its fair meaning and not strictly for or against either party. All legal proceedings arising out of or in connection with the Contest or these Official Rules shall be brought solely in Faulkner County, Arkansas. You expressly submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of said courts and consent to extraterritorial service of process.

Any applicable fees, tax, and assessment liabilities incurred by prize winners including Value Added Tax (VAT) imposed by prize winner’s country of residence, visa fees to participate in a prize associated with travel, or any related expense not included in the prize is the responsibility of the prize winner.

**LANGUAGE:** English is the primary language of the Contest.

The Fingerstyle Collective Competition Office is located in Conway, AR

Please email: [festival@fretmonkeyrecords.com](mailto:festival@fretmonkeyrecords.com)