

MID-EAST REGIONAL DULCIMER CHAMPIONSHIPS - GENERAL RULES

All rules are compliant with, and have been approved by the Walnut Valley Festival Championship rules, Winfield, Kansas.

Criteria for Judging:

1. Contests are open to anyone except entertainers or instructors receiving any form of compensation for their services at the Coshocton Dulcimer Days and those who were first place winners last year. However, the winner of last year's Mountain Dulcimer Championship may compete in the Hammered Dulcimer Championship, and the winner of last year's Hammered Dulcimer Championship may compete in the Mountain Dulcimer Championship.
2. In each category, the contestant **must** play two tunes of contrasting tempo: one tune with a slow to moderate tempo, and one tune with a fast tempo.
3. A medley of tunes is not acceptable.
4. Should a tie occur, a one-tune playoff between the contestants who have tied will be held. The tempo of the playoff tune will be the contestant's choice. The score of the playoff tune will act as tiebreaker.
5. There will be a five (5) minute time limit in each category.
6. Contestants must play only acoustic instruments. No electrical instruments will be allowed.
7. Contestants may only play dulcimers during the competition.
8. Contestants may have one rhythm instrument for accompaniment, as long as it is not the same instrument they are playing. The judges will not hear the rhythm instrument. It is the policy of both Coshocton Dulcimer Days and the Walnut Valley Festival that entertainers or instructors receiving any form of compensation for their services at the festival not accompany contestants.
9. Contestants will not be allowed to take two instruments on stage. Only one instrument will be allowed on stage at any given time. You may take a tuner on stage if you need to retune for your second tune.
10. Vocals are not permitted in either contest.
11. Broken performances (false starts, sound system problems, instrument failure, environmental difficulties, etc.) may be replayed or questioned only with the express permission of the judges.
12. If a string breaks, the contestant will have the option to continue or to stop at that point. If the tune is completed, it will be judged as played. If the contestant stops play, he/she will be allowed to begin again with the tune and complete his/her program without penalty. A reasonable amount of time will be allotted for a string

replacement. Contestants must continue with the same instrument after replacing the string.

13. If a pick or hammer is broken, the contestant may begin again on that same tune without penalty.
14. Scores sheets will NOT be made available for contestants.
15. Coshocton Dulcimer Days reserves the right to cancel any competition if there are less than three (3) participants.
16. Judges are sequestered.
17. Contestants are not allowed to speak at any time during the performance.
18. Original compositions are allowed.
19. The judges reserve the right to eliminate any contestant whose style of playing and selection of material is not in keeping with the family-oriented flavor of the festival.
20. All contestants must report to the contest stage area 30 minutes before the contest will begin in order to draw for the order of placement, and for final instructions.

Scoring:

In an effort to judge the contests objectively, the following criteria will be considered by the judges and assigned a point value in each area:

There are a total of 100 points per tune possible in the following categories:

1. ARRANGEMENT (40 points total)
 - Appropriate to tune (10 points)
 - Appropriate to instrument (10 points)
 - Originality (10 points)
 - Difficulty (10 points)
2. EXECUTION (40 points total)
 - Fingering (10 points)
 - Picking/hammering/etc. (10 points)
 - Dynamics (10 points)
 - Tuning (10 points)
3. SHOW VALUE (10 points total)
 - Is there variety shown in playing such as styles, parts, stage presence, etc..
 - The music should be played with life and feeling, and not appear listless nor should it drag.
4. OVERALL IMPRESSION (10 points total)
 - The judge's assessment of the tune's level of difficulty, the contestant's proficiency, the ability to connect with the judges and their own opinion about the tune selected.

Placement:

- Contestants must report to the designated area 30 minutes prior to the contest.
- The drawing for order of appearance on stage will be held 15 minutes before each competition.
- No more numbers may be drawn once the first number is called to the stage.
- Contestants will be limited to the first 25 registered. Registration will close after this number is reached.
- Contestants can preregister at the information tent any time Fri., Sat., or Sun., prior to the contest.

MID-EASTERN REGIONAL MOUNTAIN DULCIMER CHAMPIONSHIP

Contestants will be prepared to play four (4) instrumental numbers. Two (2) numbers of contrasting tempo will be played in the first round of the competition and the other two (2) numbers of contrasting tempo will be played in the final round should the contestant be selected as one of the top five finalists. If there are nine (9) contestants or less, only one round of competition will be played.

Contestants may have one rhythm instrument, but it may not be another mountain dulcimer. The judges will not hear the rhythm instrument.

Contestants may not take two instruments on stage, but will be allowed to have a tuner. Chromatic dulcimers will not be allowed, however instruments with the 6½ fret will be accepted. Other ½ frets, such as the 1½ fret, will not be permitted.

The contest is open to no more than 25 contestants. Contestants must be registered 30 minutes before the contest on Sunday June 21, 2009 and must be present at the contest stage for final instructions and to draw for order of appearance. Winners will be announced and will receive their awards at the conclusion of both contests.

MID-EASTERN REGIONAL HAMMERED DULCIMER CHAMPIONSHIP

Contestants will be prepared to play four (4) instrumental numbers. Two (2) numbers of contrasting tempo will be played in the first round of the competition and the other two (2) numbers of contrasting tempo will be played in the final round should the contestant be selected as one of the top five finalists. If there are nine (9) contestants or less, only one round of competition will be played.

Originality is encouraged. It is permissible to pluck one tune, but this is not required. Contestants may have one rhythm instrument, but it may not be another hammered dulcimer. The judges will not hear the rhythm instrument.

Contestants may not take two instruments on stage, but will be allowed to have a tuner. Contestants must play a North American hammered dulcimer. Variations or related instruments such as the German hackbrett, the Middle Eastern santur/santoor, the Chinese yang ch' in, or the Hungarian cymbalom will not be permitted.

The contest is open to no more than 25 contestants. Contestants must be registered 30 minutes before the contest on Sunday June 21, 2009 and must be present at the contest stage for final instructions and to draw for order of appearance. Winners will be announced and will receive their awards at the conclusion of both contests.