

136th
Bolton Fair

2018

34th Annual

Old Time
Fiddler's
Contest

Sunday – August 12th

1:00 p.m.

Registration Noon to 1:00 PM

Email or mail entry form below - first 25 guaranteed a spot!

Classes: Open, Senior, Junior, Jr-Jr, Twin Fiddle, Trick & Fancy

Cash Prizes \$1,350

Traditional Agricultural Fair

Lancaster, Massachusetts

OLD TIME FIDDLER'S CONTEST

Lancaster, Massachusetts (This year the competition moves to The Pavilion next to the pond)

Registration: Noon to 1:00, Contest starts at 1:00 p.m.

Prizes	JR-JR	JUNIOR	OPEN	SENIOR	TWIN FIDDLE	TRICK&FANCY
First	\$40	\$80	\$150	\$100	\$100	\$75
Second	\$30	\$60	\$100	\$75	\$80	\$50
Third	\$20	\$40	\$75	\$50	\$40	\$25
Fourth	\$10		\$50			

SENIOR – 60 and above. JUNIOR – 13 to 18. JUNIOR-JUNIOR – for 12 and younger.

OPEN (any age) – (Enter one class only)

BOLTON FAIR FIDDLE CONTEST RULES

1. Contestants may enter ONE of the standard categories JUNIOR-JR (12 years old and under), JUNIOR (13-18 years old), SENIOR (60 years old and over), and OPEN (any age).
2. Contestants may not enter this contest if they are professionals (derive at least half of their income from music) or related to one of the judges.
3. Contestants may additionally or alternatively enter ONE (not both) of the categories TWIN FIDDLE (with another fiddler) and TRICK & FANCY. No accompanist is allowed in these two categories.
4. Each contestant in the standard categories will play a waltz, a tune of choice and a hoedown IN THAT ORDER, within a 4-minute time limit (at which point judging stops). Tunes which do not meet the definitions below, or tunes played out of order will be disqualified and not scored at all.
 - a. A WALTZ can be any tune in 3/4 time.
 - b. A TUNE OF CHOICE must be a jig (6/8, 9/8, 12/8 time) or a tune in slow 2/4 or 4/4 time such as a schottische, clog, strathspey, slow hornpipe, or similar tune. Tunes in fast 2/4 or 4/4 time such as polkas, two-steps, rags or fast marches may not be played as a tune of choice but only as a hoedown if otherwise appropriate.
 - c. A HOEDOWN is any fast tune in 2/4 or 4/4 time commonly used for square dancing or contra dancing, such as a reel, fast hornpipe, breakdown or similar tune.
5. Tunes must be played from memory, without sheet music. No electric or amplified instruments are allowed.
6. Contestants in the standard categories will be judged 25 points for authenticity (a definite old time style of playing); 25 points for expression; 25 points for rhythm and time (old danceable time); and 25 points for tone quality and clarity (appropriate to the style) by each judge. Authenticity means the ability to play danceable music in a manner appropriate to the style of the music and in good taste. The fiddler should have a basic respect for the structure of the tune and the tradition and style of the tune's source. Variation and ornamentation should emphasize the distinctive flavor of the tune, not detract from or obscure it.
7. There will be no restriction on the age or derivation of tunes, except that they must be from a recognized tradition of dance fiddling. Tunes may be from the British Isles or North American, including New England, Southern and Western styles; Anglo, French and Scots Canadian; English, Scottish, Irish and Shetland styles.
8. Bluegrass and rock styles are discouraged, since they are not dance fiddling traditions. Double shuffle and other trick bowings are discouraged in the standard categories as well. Cross-tuning (different from GDAE) is permitted; however, changing between different tunings on stage is not encouraged due to time limits. Normal tuning on stage is ok if needed; please keep it to a minimum.
9. Fiddlers may play with an accompanist (a piano and accompanist will be available). The fiddler must lead at all times with accompanist picking or playing only rhythm.
10. Contestants in the TWIN FIDDLE category will play ONE TUNE only, with a 2-minute time limit. The judging criteria are slightly different than for the standard categories, with the 25-point criterion of tone quality and clarity being replaced by a 25-point criterion of twin fiddle appropriateness and creativity. It is expected that the two fiddlers will play different parts at least some of the time.

11. Contestants in the TRICK & FANCY category will play ONE TUNE only, with a 2-minute time limit. The judging criteria are less formal, consisting of creativity and audience appeal at the judges' discretion. There are no restrictions on bowing (such as double shuffle), cross-tuning, or positions (such as fiddling behind your back).
12. All judges' decisions are final. In case of very close scores, the judges at their discretion may require a one-tune playoff between the top players in a category. In case of a broken string or other accident, the judges at their discretion may allow the affected tune to be played over.
13. Contestants will draw for (or select) order of appearance as they register. All contestants must be ready to play when called.
14. Use the entry blank below to submit entries. The first 25 entries will be assured a place on the program. Registration at the contest is fine if space permits. Tunes can be listed at Registration. Rules will be discussed prior to the contest beginning.
15. Point of contact for registration and questions:

Fiddler Contest c/o The Bolton Fair Office
 P.O. Box 154
 Bolton, MA 01740

978-365-7206
 info@boltonfair.org

ENTRY BLANK: NAME _____ PHONE _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____
 Email _____

DIVISION: open___ senior___ junior___ junior-jr___ (check one)

TUNES:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

Directions



Fair Grounds

