

## Fiddle Contest Guidelines

### Performance regulations and restrictions:

- Each tune must be presented within a 2 ½ minute time limit.
- You will be expected to play your hoedown twice (with all repeats both times) without stopping. You might try playing a simpler version the first time, and adding more embellishments the second time.
- Depending on how long your waltz is, you may only have time to play it once. If that's the case, pull out all the goodies the first time through!
- Your tune of choice is a good place to show off. You can pick this selection from the list of "tunes of choice" or from the list of "hoedowns." Pick something that you really love and can play with lots of energy!

### Performance tips:

- Playing a hoedown, waltz, or other type of tune in this tradition is a little different from playing your regular solos or orchestra music. You don't have to play exactly what's on the page—you just have to stay in the right key and keep the right number of beats.
- The best way to learn the right style is by listening to the masters. Check out our discography of recommended recordings, or ask your teacher if he or she has a CD with some of the tunes on it.
- The melody is just a framework, and you can add your own special touches to personalize it. There are lots of ways to create your own variation: alter rhythms; add slurs or double stops; fill in spaces between notes; add ghost notes, slides, or other embellishments; change octaves; and many others.
- Many music stores carry books that can give you ideas, and you can visit [www.Bow-DaciousStringBand.com](http://www.Bow-DaciousStringBand.com) for more tips and explanations on how to add personal touches.
- Be sure to practice announcing the title of your selection in a loud, clear voice.