



# Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival

In Australia's Most Beautiful Valley

19-21 October 2012

## Performer Guidelines

### About The Festival

The Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival is presented and organised by Shoalhaven Folk Club Inc.

The 7th Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival will be held on 19-21 October 2012 at the Kangaroo Valley Showground. See the festival web site for more details.

### How To Apply

Applications to perform at the 2012 Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival close 31 March 2012.

No late applications will be accepted.

An application form can be downloaded from our web site as a fillable Word document or as a PDF file. Please return the completed form by email.

Performer Enquiries: Rob Cleary 0417 449059  
Stuart Leslie 02 4421 5538 (h), 0412 288923

Email: [perform@kangaroovalleyfolkfestival.com.au](mailto:perform@kangaroovalleyfolkfestival.com.au)

Postal Address: PO Box 778, Nowra NSW 2541

### Special Note for International Performers

The Festival may book one or two international artists who are touring Australia at the time. We are not in a position to sponsor acts or arrange tours. We do not provide airfares. International acts also must arrange their own visas.

If you have organised a tour in Australia around the date of our Festival, we welcome your, or your agent's, enquiry or application.

### Selection Process

Applications close 31 March 2012 and we anticipate that performer selection will be completed by the end of May. Please do not contact us to find out if you have been successful. We will contact you regarding your application. All applications will be acknowledged.

The initial application is essentially an expression of interest, with sufficient information to assess the application. Those acts selected to perform at the festival will be contacted and asked to provide additional information (eg stage plan and details of sound requirements, confirmation of personnel and accommodation requirements, festival passes required, details of ABN and remuneration procedure, etc.) Failure to provide this information by the date requested by the festival will nullify the initial acceptance.

In very rare cases when the follow up information conflicts with or has changed significantly from the expression of interest, or the information provided raises problems with the scheduling of the act, the festival reserves the right to decline the acceptance of the application. Final selection is based on the information provided in both stages of the application process. Applicants will be advised within a very short period of the receipt of the

additional information whether or not they have been successful. Contracts will then be mailed to successful applicants and, once signed, are binding.

Please assist us by not leaving it to the last minute to submit your application. It helps us by spreading the workload involved in assessing applications and we may be able to give you a decision earlier as well.

### **Note regarding personnel changes**

We have had instances in previous years where acts have added increasing number of members to their act after having been selected, which has essentially rendered the act significantly different to the one we originally assessed and selected. We appreciate that performers may wish to take advantage of certain opportunities that may arise after the initial application to include an additional accompanist for example and we are happy to accommodate this. However, the addition of more than two members to the act will be deemed to be a different act to that which was originally selected and the festival reserves the right to refuse the additions or nullify the original acceptance. Acts are free to swap members (within reason) or invite other performers who are booked to perform at the festival to join them as guest musicians, but going from a solo or duo act to a big band is not on!

### **Authority and obligations**

In an effort to minimize the legal jargon and to make the application process as friendly as possible we have avoided the use of strict “terms and conditions”.

However, we will take it as granted that in filling out and submitting the application, the person doing so (and the contact listed on the application form if a different person) has the permission to represent the artist/act and all members of the act in all dealings with Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival.

It is the responsibility of the representative for the artist/act to pass on all the information provided by the festival to all members of the act. Similarly, it is also the responsibility of the representative of the act to inform the Festival of any changes to the information provided in the application. Such changes may have implications with regard to the outcome of the application. It is also the best way to ensure that problems later on with regard to performers' ticketing, admission, accommodation, and performance scheduling are avoided.

### **Rejected applications**

The Festival receives many times the number of applications than we can book. There are always many disappointed acts. Rejection of an application does not necessarily reflect lack of quality. Choices in programming are made on a number of different criteria each year and we endeavour to produce a varied program from year to year. If not successful one year, please consider reapplying for another year.

Unsuccessful applicants are also reminded that the Festival has blackboard-concert type venues and you are welcome to attend and participate in such concerts, sessions, etc. Our festival organisers often “talent-scout” such venues for future festivals or folk club concerts throughout the year.

## **Selection Criteria**

### **Type of Material**

“Folk” covers a broad spectrum of music styles, both traditional and contemporary. The Festival includes elements of blues, bluegrass, country, Anglo-Celtic, world-music, jazz, singer-songwriters, folkloric dancing, indigenous, bush poetry and yarn telling, comedy, etc. It is very difficult to be prescriptive as to styles and many performers are at home in different music ‘scenes’ (eg country and folk). However, performers who are exclusively ‘pop’ or ‘rock’ for example are unlikely to be successful.

### **Type of Performances**

Performers offering workshops and themed presentations are always more favoured than those just offering concert performances. Performers who can also play for children and

dances are also sought. We also prefer performers who do not place too many restrictions on their availability, who can stay for the whole festival and participate in sessions and the general festival atmosphere.

### **Returning Performers**

Generally speaking we try not to book acts for more than two years out of three. In an effort to support our local performers we make an exception to this rule and many of our local performers are regulars. However, quality is the important determining factor and just because you live locally will not necessarily guarantee you a spot. For performers coming from further afield we may also make an exception where an established act fits a hard-to-fill niche or comes up with something new and innovative (such as interesting themed concerts and presentations). Consequently, do not be too surprised or disappointed if your application is not successful if you have performed at the previous couple of festivals even if you were a "hit" at those festivals. We have probably just chosen to give you a break this time around and may have you back in future years.

### **Fees**

The Festival is a small, not-for-profit event with a limited budget, run by volunteers so please take this into consideration when quoting a fee. Be realistic if you wish your application to be considered. All fees quoted are to be totally inclusive of all costs such as GST, travel, visas, meals. International performers please refer to note above. We typically receive 5-10 times more applications than we can accept. Many performers choose to charge a small fee but benefit from CD sales. Large choirs or dance groups generally are not paid a fee, and receive free day or weekend tickets for their members.

Applications submitted by agents asking several thousand dollars are generally not considered for this festival.

### **Street performers and buskers**

are welcome to apply but we limit the number of such acts and they must not interfere with scheduled performances. Such acts who have performances suitable for young children (eg, clowns, magic acts, puppeteers, kids crafts, etc) are sought for our children's program.

### **Volunteering**

The festival welcomes, and encourages, performers (and their partners) to contribute to the successful running of the festival. We are always looking for MC/Venue Managers in particular and performers are often good in these roles. There is no obligation for performers to volunteer their services and not doing so will not have a bearing on the success or failure of the application. There is also no obligation for the festival to accept an offer to volunteer by a performer.

### **Programming**

In general, the festival will program up to four performances per act, usually a combination of concerts, workshops and themed concerts over the three days of the festival.

If your act has material suitable for one of our themed concerts (e.g. The Political Soapbox Concert, The Comedy Concert), you may be asked to contribute a couple of songs in one of those. We may also invite one or more of your members to contribute to our instrumental forum concerts (e.g. "Glorious Guitars", "Festival Fiddles", etc). These will be in addition to your main performances.

Concert performances per act vary between 30 minutes to one hour (usually 45 minutes), workshops 45 to 90 minutes. For larger bands we try to schedule 15 minutes set up time before the performance, but for small groups set up time is usually included within the performance time (e.g. a 45 min spot equates to 40 mins performance time and 5 minutes set up time). The quicker you can set up, the more performance time you have! If your act has special requirements that will necessitate a longer set up time, you need to let us know so that we can schedule your performances at times that will allow this and minimise the effect

on the rest of the schedule. Performers who deliberately play past their allotted finish time or bully our volunteer MC's will not be asked back.

### **Accommodation**

There is no camping on site, but camping is provided at no charge for performers, partners and dependent children at Glenmack Park which adjoins the festival site. A limited number of billets are available. There are also many B&B's and other accommodation options in Kangaroo Valley.

### **Insurance**

Performers accept responsibility for their own liability insurance.

When performing, you are a Festival service provider and as such, are not covered by the Festival's public liability insurance.

We suggest investigating insurance options with Folk Alliance Australia, see [www.folkalliance.org.au](http://www.folkalliance.org.au) You need to be or become a member of Folk Alliance Australia.

Performers also accept all responsibility for their Tax obligations, Superannuation and WorkCover requirements.

### **Performer Passes**

The festival welcomes performers partners and dependent children providing their details are supplied in advance (this will be requested in the second stage of the application process). We do not provide additional tickets for other guests. If required, a festival pass will be provided for both parents (or guardians) of a performer under 16 years. If the performance is on one day only, a day pass for that day will be issued (which can be upgraded to a weekend pass by purchasing the balance). Again, we request that the names be supplied in advance. We cannot issue free festival passes at the festival gate.

### **Support Material**

Please forward a recent recording (commercial or demo CD or DVD) that is representative of the act that you are proposing to perform at the festival. For example, if you are applying as a solo act, a recording of you with a huge backing band would not be representative of your act. We would rather hear a poor quality recording of you solo than a slick, commercially produced CD of you with a large number of backing musicians. Similarly, if you are proposing to have some accompanying musicians, please endeavour to include them on the recording submitted. A recording from a live performance would be ideal. A link to your Facebook or MySpace page is another option.

If you are sending bios and photos, please email them in a digital format. Bios and background material preferred as a Word document. Images should be a minimum 300 DPI in JPG format (as separate files, not inside a Word doc). Only include photos that you would be happy to have included in the festival program book and publicity material if selected. Please do not send flyers or poster for gigs.

Please note that sending additional bio/background information is NOT a substitute for supplying a brief bio on the application form. The latter will be used for the performer information in the program book. So think carefully about the wording of this bio.

Unless you specifically request it AND include a postage-paid return addresses envelope, all support material sent to us will be retained for our files. We often refer to these files when formulating future festival programs.

**Good luck with your application!**