



Grand Country Presents **THE 29TH ANNUAL**
BRANSON FIDDLE FESTIVAL
& MID-AMERICA FIDDLERS CHAMPIONSHIP CONTEST



AUGUST 25 - 27, 2017
GRAND COUNTRY - BRANSON, MO.

Don't miss the 29th annual Branson Fiddle Festival August 25 - 27, 2017 presented by Grand Country! Located in the heart of Ozarks, Grand Country Resort is the perfect home for this amazing three-day fiddling frenzy. Once you pull in the parking lot, you'll never have to leave. Featuring hotel, theatre, restaurants, family attractions, and more,

ANYTHING GOES CONTEST

Friday, August 25th - 6:30pm - Parking Lot
 Kick-off this fun-filled weekend with the *Anything Goes Contest!* With an "open-mic" feel, get ready for anything: Cross-tuning, Trick and Fancy Fiddling allowed! The applause meter will decide the winner! 4 places will be awarded: \$50 - \$300
 End the evening with a free concert by starring Melody Hart backed by a live band.

MID-AMERICA FIDDLE COMPETITION

Saturday, August 26th - 9am - Music Hall
 Saturday morning the real fun begins with the Mid-America Fiddle Competition. Featuring six different divisions of competition with awards and opportunity to advance to Finals.

Divisions Include:

1. Pee-Wee (10 and under): 6 places awarded (\$15 - \$100)
2. Junior (11 - 16):..... 6 places advance to Finals.
3. Accompanist:..... 5 places awarded (\$50 - \$300)
4. Senior (60 & over):..... 3 places awarded (\$100 - \$300)
6. Open:..... 15 places advance to Finals.

MID-AMERICA FINALS/CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday, August 27th - 1pm - Music Hall
 Sunday afternoon begins the quest to find the best of the best and name the 2017 Champion!

Division Finals Include:

1. Junior (10 - 16):..... 6 places awarded (\$50 - \$400)
2. Open:..... 12 places awarded (\$50 - \$500)
 The Top 3 from Open Division will advance on to the Round Robin and compete for the Championship.
3. Round Robin:..... 3rd & 2nd places will be awarded (\$700 - \$800)

Mid-America Fiddle Champion wins \$1,000 & Belt Buckle

STAY & PLAY AT GRAND COUNTRY!

Grand Country is the grandest family destination in Branson. Featuring live shows daily, 36-hole indoor mini-golf, a family amusement center with arcade games, bumper cars, black light mini-golf and more.

For lodging, guests can stay at Grand Country Inn which features an interactive indoor and outdoor water park that is free for guests, as well as indoor and outdoor pools.



Guests can also enjoy the Grand Country Buffet, pizza, custard, homemade fudge, the world's largest banjo and fiddle, and shopping for all ages.

SPECIAL \$69.⁹⁵ (PLUS TAX) HOTEL RATE

Use Promo Code: Fiddle17

TICKETS FOR THEATRE:

ADULT (12 AND UP) \$10 (PLUS TAX)
CHILD (4 - 11) \$3 (PLUS TAX)
(3 AND UNDER FREE)

BOOK RESERVATIONS TODAY!

HOTEL: 417-335-3535;
SHOW TICKETS: 417-335-2484 OR
GRANDCOUNTRY.COM/FIDDLEFEST

Grand Country Presents

THE 29TH ANNUAL BRANSON FIDDLE FESTIVAL 2017 & MID-AMERICA FIDDLERS CHAMPIONSHIP CONTEST

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2017

6:30pm - Anything Goes Fiddle Contest

The weekend starts with an "open-mic" style of competition. Cross-tuning, Trick and Fancy Fiddling allowed! The applause meter determines the winner!

1st Place: \$300 2nd Place: \$150

3rd Place: \$100 4th Place: \$50

End the evening with a free concert starring Melody Hart backed by a live band.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2017

8:30 - Registration

Registration begins at 8:30am Saturday at the Grand Country Music Hall Box Office. There is no entry fee for contestants. All contestants must be available 30 MINUTES prior to the start of their Division, and have tune sheets turned in at registration time. Six Divisions will be competing.

9am: Pee-Wee Division (10 and under)

1st Place: \$100 2nd Place: \$75 3rd Place: \$50

4th Place: \$25 5th Place: \$25 6th Place: \$15

10:30am: Junior Division (11 - 16)

6 Places advance to Junior Finals on Sunday

12pm: Lunch Break

1pm: Pee-Wee & Junior Winners Announced

1:15pm: Accompanist

1st Place: \$300 2nd Place: \$200 3rd Place: \$100

4th Place: \$75 5th Place: \$50

1:30pm: Senior Division (60 and over)

1st Place: \$300 2nd Place: \$200 3rd Place: \$100

3pm: Open Division

15 Places advance to Open Finals on Sunday

Schedule subject to change depending on number of contestants. Times are preliminary and may change as much as 15 minutes.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2017

1pm: Junior Division Finals

1st Place: \$400 2nd Place: \$300 3rd Place: \$200

4th Place: \$100 5th Place: \$75 6th Place: \$50

2:45pm: Open Division Finals

1st, 2nd & 3rd Places Advance to Round Robin

4th Place: \$500 5th Place: \$400 6th Place: \$350

7th Place: \$250 8th Place: \$200 9th Place: \$175

10th Place: \$150 11th Place: \$125 12th Place: \$100

13th Place: \$75 14th Place: \$60 15th Place: \$50

4pm: Round Robin Finals

2nd Place: \$800 3rd Place: \$700

Mid-America Fiddle Champion: \$1,000 & Champion Buckle

MEET THE JUDGES



Jimmie Don Bates

Jimmie Don was born in Austin, Texas and began playing the fiddle at the age of 11. He learned Texas style fiddle from Garland Gainer. When he turned 13 he met Bennie Thomason at the State Championship contest in Hallettsville and began to study under him at Red Oak, Texas. The next year Jimmie Don became the youngest person to win the Texas Old Time Fiddler's Association championship in Burnet and he has won that contest many times since. In 1983 he won the Texas State championship and began teaching fiddle. In 1987 he became the third Texan to win the National championship in Weiser, Idaho. He has won the World championship contest at Crockett, Texas five times in a row, and he has won the Texas State championship contest seven times. In 1995 Jimmie Don was elected President of the Texas Old Time Fiddlers Association and in 1997 he was inducted into the Fiddlers' Frolics Hall of Fame. Jimmie Don now lives in Austin Texas and it is obvious that Texas fiddling will dominate Jimmie Don Bates, the first of a new generation of Texas Fiddlers, for all his years to come.

Sherry started fiddling at age 11 and has been studying, teaching, performing ever since. Essentially a self-taught musician, she is a multiple state and national champion fiddle player. Sherry and her husband Joey own and operate McKenzie's Fiddle Studio in Burleson, TX where they have been teaching music for more than 25 years. An active member of the Suzuki Violin Association, she is registered in the Suzuki method of teaching thru Texas Christian University and applies the pedagogical ideas of the method to an Old-time and Texas-style fiddling curriculum. She is a sought after instructor at workshops, fiddle camps, and Suzuki institutes and thru her 501c3 'Fiddles on Wheels', she hosts a fiddling workshop each spring, as well as producing the Bob Wills Fiddle Contest in Greenville, TX. Winter of 2017 will bring the release of her first fiddling curriculum book & accompaniment cd, as well as a twin & triple fiddle Western swing arrangement book & accompaniment cd.



Sherry McKenzie



Matthew Hartz

Matthew Hartz of Boise, ID is a 3-time Grand Master Fiddle Champion (Nashville, TN), a 2-time Grand National Fiddle Champion (Weiser, ID), and a 2-time (and current!) World Fiddle Champion (Crockett, TX). Matthew is a multi-instrumentalist and diverse artist involved in many different genres of music. His 2014 album, "A Steady Sense Of Feel," was his 2nd album of all original pop/rock/jazz compositions fused with his fiddle and other folk influences. A 3rd album of this nature is currently in the works. Matthew has also released 6 fiddle albums during his career including a brand new one - "The Marion Sessions" featuring Ray Franklin, Jerry Thomason & Anthony Mature on rhythm guitars! Matthew has also performed and recorded with a wide variety of other artists through the years. Currently, he performs, teaches & records regularly around the U.S..