



## TEXAS TUNE TUSSLE & SINGERS SCRAMBLE

You have registered for the Texas Tune Tussle (for instrumental tunes) or the Singers Scramble (for vocals). This note is addressed to participants of both groups.

The Sunday night performances and the rehearsals leading up are meant to achieve three goals:

1. To provide students opportunities to play or sing together in groups and in a way that goes beyond an ordinary session.
2. To challenge the participants by their having to choose, learn, arrange and practice a set of tunes or songs with just three structured rehearsals.
3. To give students an opportunity to perform in front of the other students, instructors and guests.

We want this to be an effort mostly by and for the student participants which means your instructor is more of a coach and will not perform with you unless absolutely necessary (more likely to happen in the singers scramble if the class contains no other guitar player). The coach's job is to help the students choose the tunes or songs, to keep the classes organized and on task and to offer suggestions from their years of experience of how to arrange the music for the sake of the performance, also taking suggestions from you, the students.

### Preparing for the Classes

A few days before the retreat, all participants will be divided up into their respective ensembles by the retreat organizers. We will attempt to balance melody with rhythm players and to the extent of our knowledge, also provide a balance of experience among the students and within the bands. When you meet on Friday, come prepared with tune/song suggestions, if you can.

### The Rehearsals

You have all too little time, so don't waste one minute! You will choose your pieces for performance, rehearse them some, then choose how to arrange them and then rehearse them some more. You are encouraged but not required to find time outside of the classes to rehearse. In addition, you may want to select a band name and decide what title your band wants to try for in the contest (see below), and what bribes to offer the judges. Yes, we said BRIBES! Bribe suggestions may be anything decent and non-alcoholic, like home baked goods, gift baskets, promised back or foot rubs, silly toys, gadgets, hats, etc. Come prepared or be advised there is a Walmart in Midlothian. There will be four judges representing our retreat sponsors. We encourage humor and creativity and discourage spending a lot of money. Your ironic or heartfelt or humorous presentation of said bribes (make it SHORT) can enhance your overall performance.

### The Performance Competition:

You will have **ONLY 8 minutes** total in which to get on the stage, get settled, offer your bribe, if you have one, perform and get off the stage. The competition is not about who plays or sings the best. It is meant mainly as a goal for the players/singers, something to work toward, the experience of ensemble participation and the experience of performance. The latter can be both exciting and scary. We want to, with your help, make this as much fun as possible, too. It should be a good balance of **appreciation** and **joy of traditional music** and as much **humor** as possible. So think outside the box and consider this list of contest winning categories the judges may choose from:

Best Dressed – Most Energetic – Best Timing – Best Bribes – Most Humorous – Best Costumes – Best Arrangement– Most in Tune – Most Inclusive - Best Stage Presence – Most Promising

All of our participants, instructors and audience will be there for you with loud applause and great support!