



**Anchorage Folk Festival and Arctic Roadrunner's Dick Sanchis  
Present:**

## **The Second Annual Banjo Contest**

*In memory of Ken Terry, "Mr. Banjo"*

The modern-day banjo is a uniquely versatile and truly American traditional instrument, and we want to celebrate the many banjo players (and especially banjo students) out there who rarely get the credit and encouragement they deserve.

Audience members and fans are very welcome, just please respect the need to be quiet when contestants are actually playing. We want this to really be a fun and positive experience, and a real showcase for banjo music.

**When: Saturday January 29, 2011**

**Where: UAA Wendy Williamson Auditorium Main Stage**

**Sign-in: 11:00 am**, in the green room behind the stage don't be late!  
(North stage door or Bldg K hall access),

**Time: Contest starts at 11:30 am**

**Fee:** None – It's free!!

**Eligibility:** Anyone can enter, any age

**Style:** Any style of 4 or 5 string acoustic banjo; contestants each declare their picking style

**Judging Categories:** Three musical categories will be used:

- **Clawhammer styles**
- **Finger-picking styles**
- **Open (includes plectrum, Irish flatpicking, tenor strumming, etc.)**

Also included is a **BANJO JOKE CATEGORY**, because, let's face it, banjo jokes are as traditional as banjo music and so they should get recognition as well!

**Judging:** All contestants will be judged by a panel of 3 highly qualified Alaskan Pickers

**Prizes:** A prize winner will be chosen for each musical judging category, and best joke. Prizes include cash (yes, cash!), gift certificates to (mostly) classy restaurants, and other assorted booty!

All contestants receive a Certificate of Participation.

**Grand Prize:** An overall champion will be determined by the judges

**Here's how it works:**

Contestants need to be at the Wendy Williamson theatre at 11:00 a.m. Saturday January 29 to sign up to play, and to warm up. Contestants will identify their picking style (see Judging Categories).

The contest will start at 11:30 a.m. on the Main Stage. Order of appearance will be determined before the start of the contest, by drawing numbers. The emcee will introduce each contestant and the song titles.

Each contestant will have 5 minutes to play (solo) and ideally should plan to perform two instrumental numbers within that 5 minutes total (eek, no singing, please!). This will be on the Main Stage, with a single microphone, so the judges can clearly hear each player.

## Judging Criteria:

We modeled our judging methods based on criteria used in contests all over the country.

For the musical categories:

**1. Execution (40 points):** Timing, clarity, tone quality, being in tune, dynamics and finesse, degree of difficulty. (No, we are not going to execute any banjo players, even if tempted!)

**2. Arrangement (40 points):** Musical appeal of songs played, sense of melody, originality, subtlety, and taste (or what passes for taste, in banjo music).

**3. Spirit (10 points):** The music should have life and feeling; not be listless or dragging.

**4. Overall impression (10 points):** The general effect of the performance, including factors not otherwise mentioned above. Is the audience thrilled, or chilled?

**In the Banjo Joke category, similar criteria will be applied.** Additionally, all jokes must be rated G, like the movies, with a one-minute time limit, and one-joke maximum. Jokes will be screened by a designated AFF staffer to ensure the G rating. Contestants can enter the joke category, regardless of whether they also enter to compete in a musical category. Joke points will not be used in determining the overall champion.

**NOTE: All contestants should stay at the stage area until the final results are tabulated,** TIES in one or more categories may need to be resolved by a play-off. That means that those players would need to each play one more song for the judges to determine the winner.

**Judges will confer to determine the winners and overall champion.** During that time, ALL contestants are requested to gather together on stage to play a traditional tune determined by the judges (something really easy) – trust us, this will be fun!

**At the conclusion, winners will be announced, prizes awarded, and Certificates of Performance provided.** Of course, all participants are also encouraged to become members of the Anchorage Folk Festival, and to consider volunteering too. Special thanks are due to Dick Sanchis (Local Burger Man) for proposing this contest to honor the memory of Ken "Mr. Banjo" Terry, and donating prize money. Thanks also to businesses providing gift certificates, the judges, and other volunteers helping run this new contest.