



Walnut Valley Festival Supports Young Musicians Continues 29-year Tradition with Acoustic Kids Showcases!

Winfield, KS. August 6, 2019

This September, the **Walnut Valley Festival** will give young musicians in its audience the opportunity to perform on its festival stages in **Andy May's Acoustic Kids Showcases** - as it has every year since 1991. Supplementing the National and International instrument championship competitions for which the festival is famous, this non-competitive program mentors the next generation of musicians, recognizing their achievements at every level, beginner through pro. It is designed to provide a positive performance experience in a professional setting for young pickers and singers through age 16.

The proof is in the pudding: Throughout its long history at the festival, Acoustic Kids has seen many participants return year after year to play in the showcases until they age out at 17. And, since bands are eligible as long as at least one featured performer is 16 years of age or younger, many bands play every year until their youngest player turns 17.

*"Andy has a remarkable ability to make kids feel welcomed and valued as a person and (a) musical contributor.... I'm so glad Acoustic Kids has stayed involved in the community, because not only does it give all these kids good memories, but as the kids grow up they'll remember that their contribution is important." - **Sara Watkins**, multi-year participant with **Nickel Creek** in Walnut Valley Festival Acoustic Kids Showcases*

"You never know who you'll see for the first time in Acoustic Kids!"

As a show, Acoustic Kids Showcases are not for kids only: They are for music lovers of all ages. Audiences are treated to an Opry-style stream of young entertainers who warm their hearts and take their breath away. They leave knowing, "The music is in good hands!"

Andy May is an award-winning, life-long, professional musician and music educator. As a guitarist, mandolinist, and singer-songwriter, he has nearly 60 years of performance experience himself, and he knows what it takes to get on stage and entertain. As an educator, he understands the importance of gaining performance experience in a supportive environment. He created Acoustic Kids in 1989 to give his own students that experience, and the program has been embraced for three decades by music festivals that want to support the next generation of musicians.



Participation in Acoustic Kids is free with festival admission, but **preregistration is required**. Registration will be available as long as there is room in the showcases.

- **Register:** andymay.com/acoustic-kids-registration-walnut-valley-fest
- **Details:** andymay.com/acoustic-kids/about/
- **Contact:** andymay.com/acoustic-kids/contact-us/

Acoustic Kids Ambassadors

The **Acoustic Kids Ambassadors** is a spin-off of Acoustic Kids Showcases. The Ambassadors set gives young emerging artists a spotlight as they represent the Acoustic Kids program to a broader audience.

Showcase Schedule:

Friday, September 20:

- Acoustic Kids Showcases - Stage 2, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- Acoustic Kids Ambassadors - Stage 1, 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 21:

- Acoustic Kids Showcases - Stage 2, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.



Acoustic Kids Alumni

After nearly three decades at the Walnut Valley Festival, Acoustic Kids has hundreds of Alumni in the region and beyond. If you are one, you can be included in the new **Acoustic Kids Alumni Register**.

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