

# Banjo Contest

The 56<sup>th</sup> Florida Folk Festival will host an old-time banjo contest again this year in partnership with the Florida Banjo Society under the direction of Chuck Levy. The competition will be judged by Mary Z. Cox, Jim Strickland and Bob Murphy. The contest is open to old-time banjo playing styles. Old-time banjo in this context refers to styles pre-dating bluegrass using banjos with short thumb strings. Registration begins Sunday at 1 p.m. at the Heritage Stage which is the venue for the contest. Contestants must hold a valid festival pass and pay a \$5 registration fee. Entrants will play two separate tunes (medleys are not allowed). First prize is a Gold Tone "Old Tone" banjo. Gold Tone's new Old Tone banjo series is comprised of open-back banjos made expressly for old-time playing. These banjos were created by Wayne Rogers with the help of Bob Carlin, Marcy Marxer, Cathy Fink, Dan Levenson, and Chuck Levy. They integrate classical banjo esthetics with modern design elements to create an entirely new standard. Second prize is a Gold Tone Plucky, a lovely little travel banjo small enough to fit in a carry-on suitcase, but with powerful chirp that will carry in a jam session. Third prize is a \$100 gift certificate for any item or items in the Gold Tone catalogue. Contestants will have a chance to go home with a tuner from Sabine, books and/or CDs from Mary Z.Cox, Ken Perlman or Chuck Levy or perhaps a T-Shirt or hat from Ome. Many thanks to our Banjo Contest Sponsors: Gold Tone Instruments of Titusville, Florida; Sabine Music Company, Ome. The Suwannee Banjo Camp (Chuck Levy and Ken Perlman co-Directors), and Mary Z. Cox.