

NM FolkMADS Band & Caller Booking Policy 2.0

Adopted by the FolkMADS Board on 3-4-19

Dear FolkMADS Community,

In an effort to create exhilarating dance events and support the development of our local talent, we have adopted a new policy concerning band and caller booking at our events. Below you will see that we are inviting callers and bands to apply to be considered as a “Frequent Callers and Bands List,” which would allow them to be booked more often throughout the year. Please see the details below and consider applying.

Sincerely,
The FolkMADS Board

Categories of Talent

Core Talent List

- Callers & bands would be chosen from any who want to call or play, although they should have demonstrated some basic competence to ensure a good experience for all.
- Experience at regular dances can be used to generate experience for application to be on the Frequent Callers & Bands list.
- *If you already play for FolkMADS dances, you are already a part of this list and need not apply for anything!*

Frequent Callers & Bands List

- If callers or bands want to play/call more frequently than the Core Talent, they may apply to be considered “Frequent Callers” or “Frequent Bands.” These callers and bands would be those who are known to consistently provide a high quality dance experience when they perform. The local callers & bands for special events (Boo Camp, FolkMADness, etc.) will primarily be chosen from the “Frequent Callers & Bands” list.
- The number of callers and bands on the “Frequent Callers & Bands” list would be limited to assure high quality and provide increased opportunities for them to call/play. The exact number will be determined according to the number of applications submitted.
- Callers/Bands must apply and be selected by a FolkMADS Frequent Caller & Band Selection Committee (FCBSC), which will be made up of Feedback Committee Members and select Advisory Board Members.
- Each year FolkMADS will request formal application by callers and bands to be on the “Frequent Callers & Bands” list. **The application includes: a) videos of the applicant teaching and calling two dances (callers) OR videos of the applicant playing for a dance, CD or other recordings (bands), b) an informal resumé of experience, and c) two letters of reference from active members of a dance community.**

- Membership on the “Frequent Callers & Bands” list would last for 3 years. There would be no constraints regarding re-application so that it’s possible a good caller or band could be on the list indefinitely, however, they must reapply every 3 years. Membership on the “Frequent Callers & Bands” list would be staggered such that one-third of the members would drop off list every year & must reapply.

TO APPLY:

Please submit your application material to folkmaads@gmail.com or New Mexico Folk Music & Dance Society, PO Box 35912, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87176 no later than September 1st, 2019. Applicants will be notified of their list placement by December 1st, 2019 and this protocol will be implemented for booking beginning in January 2020.

Additional Notes:

- Membership on either list (core or frequent) implies a willingness to play for dances. If a caller or band doesn’t play at least once per year for two consecutive years they will be removed from the list.
- Megaband Dances - The Megabands are a vital part of our music and dance community and we will continue to have dances featuring the Megaband at the discretion of the local dance committees. Megaband is open to all musicians and is a good training ground for new musicians or musicians new to contra. Callers for Megaband dances will be selected from either Talent List.
- The Feedback Committee will remain in place and will send the feedback submitted via the online survey to the talent on a periodic basis.

New Callers and Bands

For a new band or caller to be included on the Core or Frequent list, they will need to submit an application meeting the same requirements as an applicant for the Frequent Callers & Bands List.

Some suggestions for practicing/creating footage for the application:

Callers - Ask a core/frequent caller if you may call one or two dances at a dance they’re calling and videotape those dances! Contact the Caller’s Collective and request a meeting to practice and record a dance!

Bands - Participating in the Megabands is a great way to practice and learn the ropes of playing for dancing! For your application you are simply required to send an audio recording, so you do not need to gather a room of a dancers, but practicing with dancers and a live caller is encouraged. Need help coordinating a practice event? Contact folkmaads@gmail.com and we’ll help you find a space/reach out to the community!

Out-of-town Callers and Bands

If you are an out-of-state caller or band, please contact the bookers for the dance you are interested in playing for. You'll be asked to provide evidence of your ability to play/call dances, but it will not be the complete application process.

Non-qualified Callers and Bands

If a band or caller receives consistently negative feedback on the Feedback Survey, the Board of Directors can recommend not booking them for future events to the dance committees. For a band or caller to be reinstated on the list, they will need to submit an application that demonstrates significant improvement. Callers looking to be reinstated are encouraged to participate in open mic nights, participate in the Caller's Collective, or create their own practice/recording situations.