

# The Lounge Stage at Falcon Ridge



## The Performers Guide to The Lounge Stage

### Introduction

Starting in 2010 the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival changed from a four day music format to a three day music format. Prior to 2010, the festival would allow on-site camping to begin Wednesday night and present organized music on Thursday through Sunday. Starting in 2010, on-site camping was still allowed beginning Wednesday night but organized music didn't begin until Friday. Scott Jones, with Ethan Baird and Jake Bush of Pesky J Nixon created The Lounge Stage to provide organized music on Thursday. This is a volunteer effort and not managed by the festival.

### Who

The Lounge Stage is the work of Scott Jones, Ethan Baird and Jake Bush.

- Ethan Baird – Artistic Director – Ethan is a founding member of the band Pesky J Nixon and along with Jake Bush is responsible for booking The Lounge Stage and setting the schedule. Ethan may be reached at [ebaird@gmail.com](mailto:ebaird@gmail.com)
- Jake Bush – Artistic Director – Jake is a founding member of the band Pesky J Nixon and along with Ethan Baird is responsible for booking The Lounge Stage and setting the schedule. Jake may be reached at [jakebush@gmail.com](mailto:jakebush@gmail.com)
- Scott Jones – Technical Director – Scott is a former professional sound man who now does sound as a hobby. Scott is responsible for all of the physical equipment for The

Lounge Stage including sound and lighting. Scott may be reached at [sjones@theloungestage.com](mailto:sjones@theloungestage.com)

Artists who are scheduled to appear on the stage will be given cell phone numbers for the directors once they are booked for the stage.

### **What**

The Lounge Stage presents live acoustic music from 5:00pm to 11:00pm on the Thursday of Falcon Ridge. The music is presented in ten “sets”. A set may be a round (40min) or a band (25min). Rounds typically include three artists/acts taking turns performing songs and each artist/act will typically get to play two to three songs. The rotation is artist 1, artist 2, artist 3 and then back to artist 1, etc. Band sets typically feature larger acts for an entire set. Due to space and equipment limitations, we try to limit the number of performers on the stage at one time to eight.

### **Where**

The Lounge Stage originally took place in the ten acre camping area but has now moved into the dance tent.

### **When**

The Lounge Stage takes place on the Thursday of Falcon Ridge each year from 5:00pm until 11:00pm. These are the same hours the main stage used to operate on Thursday.

### **Bookings**

Bookings are done by Ethan Baird and Jake Bush beginning around the first of the year. Ethan and Jake will begin to assemble a list of prospective performers and the list will be circulated between the three directors. The list is circulated between the directors and iterated until the final schedule is produced a few months before the festival.

The basic bookings principles behind the stage are as follows:

- Mix of Acts - We try to have a mix of acts with some new to Falcon Ridge acts we are introducing, some acts who are established/known to the Falcon Ridge audience, and some well-known/very established acts including a main stage act as a headliner each year.
- Must Have Seen the Acts Perform - As a general rule, we do not book any acts that Ethan and Jake have not seen perform live. The one exception to this is emerging artists. We sometimes leave some slots open until the emerging artists are announced by the festival and then we try to book some of the emerging artists to fill those slots. If you think you would like to play The Lounge Stage and Ethan and Jake are unfamiliar with you, contact Ethan or Jake well in advance and try to set an opportunity for them to hear you. Pesky J Nixon (Ethan and Jake’s band) tours the Northeast and Ethan and Jake are regulars on the Boston music scene as well as NERFA attendees.
- Rotating the Artists - We try to rotate the artists who appear each year so we don’t have the same acts year after year.

- Compensation - The stage is our labor of love to give something back to the Falcon Ridge community. No one is paid to perform on the stage although we will feed you and be really nice and appreciative.
- Disputes - All final decision about bookings and scheduling are made by Ethan and Jake.

### **How The Stage is Run**

The stage and associated systems are set up on Thursday morning. All of the microphones and direct boxes for the stage will be set up and channel checks will be run before the stage begins operating at 5:00pm. We typically present around twenty different musical acts in ten sets in a six hour time period. Transitions between sets are typically less than five minutes with only time for quick levels checks (we want to maximize the music we present). Due to the compressed time schedule we will provide microphones and direct boxes and we expect all the acts to use our equipment. Questions and or concerns about the available equipment should be directed to Scott Jones. If you have special requirements please make sure you notify Scott in advance. All final decisions about stage equipment are made by Scott Jones.

### **Availability of Power**

With our move to the dance tent we now have municipal power but the total amperage available is limited. If you want to bring an amplifier for a bass guitar or any other instrument you need to discuss it with Scott in advance. Please do not plug anything other than effects pedals in on the stage without speaking to Scott first.

### **Performers Responsibilities**

We work very hard to present a professional music experience to our audiences. The quality of the performers on the stage, the sound, and the overall experience have all been excellent to-date. Please help us maintain this standard by doing the following:

- Before Arriving – as soon as you are booked for the stage please make sure the directors are aware of who is in your act, who sings and what instruments each person will play. If you will have guests join you, we need to know that as well. We have a limited number of PA channels and we try to pre configure them to handle all the acts over the course of the entire day. Also if you need power for anything let us know that as well.
- Be on time – please arrive thirty minutes prior to your set. You will be notified well in advance what time your set is. If you are late for your set you may be replaced in the rotation and not get to play.
- Check in – please let Jake know once you have arrived.
- Be ready – when it is time for your set, please be ready. Have your instrument and yourself ready to go. If you have a preamp in your instrument, please make sure you have fresh batteries installed.
- Hooking Up - When you get on the stage, Scott or his delegate will let you know where to plug in and what microphones to use. Please do not just start hooking up until told where and how to hook in. A special note to drummers. If you have a full drum kit some or all of it may not need to be amplified through the PA but microphones still need to be placed so that your drums are captured in the recordings (see below).

- Be professional – this has never been a problem but please keep in mind that we are trying to present a professional quality performance. Also, Falcon Ridge is a family festival, so please keep your language “reasonably appropriate”.

### **Dinner**

We no longer break at dinner time for a group meal but all artists who perform on the stage will be given vouchers for the food vendors.

### **Recordings**

We use a digital board and we capture all of the channels for later mix down. In the weeks following Falcon Ridge Scott Jones will mix all the songs and then send them out to the artists for review before we post them on [www.theloungestage.com](http://www.theloungestage.com).

**In the past we waited to hear back from the artists before posting any of the songs but we have had so much trouble getting responses we have changed this policy. Once we have mixed down the songs we will send them to you and you can approve or disapprove them or request changes but if we don't hear from you within two weeks we will post the songs at our discretion.**

### **Merchandise Table**

We will set up a merchandise table that will be manned by a member of the Lounge Stage staff. Anyone performing on the stage is welcome to leave merchandise to sell. We will sell it for you and we do not take any commission or percentage.

Please make sure you go by the merchandise table at 11:00pm to pick up your payment and any unsold merchandise.

### **Web Site**

[www.theloungestage.com](http://www.theloungestage.com) has pictures, artist lists and most of the songs from all of the previous years. If you want to see what the stage is like and listen to the recordings that is the place to go.

We hope you enjoy performing on The Lounge Stage and being part of the Lounge Stage community as much as we enjoy putting it on every year.

Scott Jones, Ethan Baird, Jake Bush