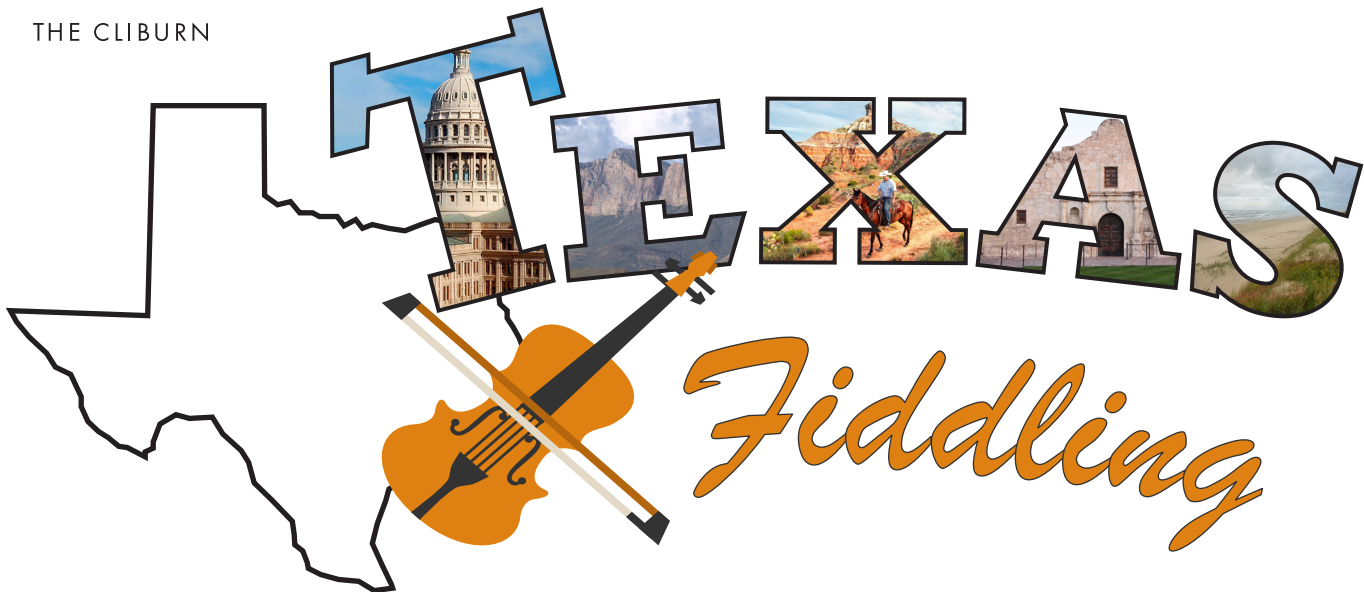




THE CLIBURN



THE FIRST-KNOWN FIDDLE CONTEST IN THE UNITED STATES HAPPENED IN VIRGINIA IN 1736. FROM THERE, CONTESTS BECAME WILDLY POPULAR AND TRAVELED WEST WITH THE PIONEERS, WHO PLAYED TO LIFT SPIRITS AND PASS TIME DURING THEIR LONG JOURNEYS.

TEXAS FIDDLING ROSE OUT OF THIS CONTEST TRADITION. ONCE EUROPEAN SETTLERS ARRIVED IN THE AREA, THEIR HORNPIPES, REELS, AND JIGS MIXED WITH THE MUSIC FROM OTHER CULTURES THAT LIVED HERE. MEXICAN SONGS, AFRICAN AMERICAN BLUES, CZECH-POLISH POLKAS, AND APPALACHIAN BLUEGRASS ALL COMBINED TO CREATE A NEW SOUND UNIQUE TO OUR STATE.

TODAY, THE FESTIVAL OF TEXAS FIDDLING KEEPS THIS TRADITION ALIVE. EACH DECEMBER, PEOPLE GATHER FROM ALL OVER THE STATE TO DANCE TOGETHER, PLAY IN JAM SESSIONS, LISTEN TO CONCERTS, AND LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF TEXAS FIDDLING.