

fans gone?

ent committee) took great pains to explain that the term "folk music" was being given the widest possible interpretation.

"About our only criteria is that it wasn't electronic," said Glombecki. "We are also encouraging original music. Better than half the performers are doing at least some originals."

"We called it a folk festival because we felt people understood that term best," said Tucker.

"Our folk music also includes ethnic music," added Hamilton.

"We wanted to have more classical guitar players, actually," said Edmondson. "But they didn't want to enter."

Classical and flamenco guitar are about the only types that aren't represented. The list begins with shape-note singing and continues through Irish/Celtic, South American, bluegrass, blues, jug bands, ragtime guitar, mandolin ensembles, percussion ensembles and even traditional folk.

The oddest part is that Tucker and Glombecki, two of the most popular folk musicians in town, aren't in it. Especially after they did all that worrying so many months ago.

"None of the TKMA committee members are performing in it," Hamilton explained. "Since this is our first festival, we wanted to be very careful about showing any partiality to anybody."

Everyone agreed the toughest part of the organizational work so far has been getting somewhat familiar with each act and then moving the groups around to get four separate lineups that offered a nice flow of talent. To be considered for the festival, everyone had to send in a tape of their music. Approximately 75 tapes were received.

"We played all the tapes once and made notes," said Tucker. "Then we went through the tapes again and moved some around. Then we went through them a third time to decide the final lineup."

"These aren't amateur players," said Glombecki. "Most are excellent. It's just that many of them aren't very well known because there hasn't been anyplace for them to play in public."

The members of TKMA hope this is the first step to solving that problem. While the group's main interest is staging this festival, not popularizing folk music, it is an unstated hope the festival will bring people together and get them thinking about more folk music activities.

"The festival is obviously fulfilling a need," said Tucker.

"We've gotten a lot of these musicians out of the closet and into the kitchen," Glombecki added with a chuckle. "Now we're getting some of them out of the kitchen and onto the stage."

The first Tucson Folk Festival begins Saturday at noon in El Presidio Park downtown and continues until 9 p.m. The music resumes Sunday at 11 a.m. and ends at 7 p.m. There is no admission charge.

Free parking during the festival will be available in the El Presidio parking garage, which is entered from Alameda Street.