



MEMPHIS BLUES SOCIETY - 1910 MADISON AVE., #627 Memphis, TN 38104

2017 OFFICIAL APPLICATION

MEMPHIS BLUES SOCIETY

Battle of the Blues Challenge in Memphis 2017

The Memphis Blues Society will accept only the FIRST TEN applications (5 Band / 5 Solo/Duo) received that meet requirement qualifications. When sufficient numbers of qualified applications are received by the Memphis Blues Society, the application availability period will close.

No applications will be accepted after the official deadline postmark date of October 9th

RULES

1 Entrants must submit an act biography and a high-resolution (1600 x 1200 pixels) promotional photo in jpeg format. Bio and photo are to be emailed to mbsibc@memphisbluessociety.com

2 Submitted applications must include an audio CD or cassette tape of original music. Quality of recording and/or graphics is not considered in selecting and only the first three songs will be considered. CD or tape will not be returned.

3 Submitted applications must include a \$20 entry fee. (Fee will be returned if your act is not selected to compete.)
ALL ACTS MUST BE MEMEBRS OF THE MBS IN THE BAND CATEGORY

4 Acts from outside a 90 mile range from Memphis may compete, but they must join the MBS in the Band Category (\$50.00) in addition to the \$20.00 application fee.

5 Your signature is a guarantee of performance for all dates you qualify to compete. Do not sign if you have a conflict with any of the following dates:

A: Battle Of the Blues Judging – October 15 and 18th (All acts 7 will play BOTH nights)
B: 34th International Blues Challenge - January 16-20, 2018

6 Failure to perform due to a performance conflict results in immediate disqualification of your band. Act members must remain the same in all rounds. **NOTE:** No substitution will be allowed without prior consent of the MBS board and only in the case of an emergency. MBS must have 24-hour notification to consider any substitution request.

7 Entrants grant permission to the Memphis Blues Society for use of photos, audio and video tapes for promotional purposes only.

8 All entrants must have a Social Media Presence to be considered (Band website, Facebook page, ReverbNation) NO EXCEPTIONS!

9 All decisions of the judges are FINAL



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BATTLE OF THE BLUES CHALLENGE APPLICATION

NAME OF BAND	
WEBSITE	
FACEBOOK	
REVERBNATION/OTHER	

MEMBERS: (INDICATE VOCALS AS AN INSTRUMENT)

MEMBER 1 INSTRUMENT	
MEMBER 2 INSTRUMENT	
MEMBER 3 INSTRUMENT	
MEMBER 4 INSTRUMENT	
MEMBER 5 INSTRUMENT	
MEMBER 6 INSTRUMENT	
MEMBER 7 INSTRUMENT	

:

Will you be bringing or require any additional or special equipment other than standard backline gear? Please list:

Does your drummer require a left-handed set-up?

Please include a CD or cassette tape of three original songs for submission consideration.

LIST FIRST THREE SONG TITLES AS THEY APPEAR ON SUBMISSION:

1
2
3



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BATTLE OF THE BLUES APPLICATION

BAND NAME	
CONTACT NAME	
STREET ADDRESS	
CITY, STATE, ZIP	
PHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	

I certify that our band meets the eligibility requirements outlined in the Blues Challenge Rules. Any misrepresentation will result in disqualification.*

* See Attached

SIGNATURE OF BAND REPRESENTATIVE: _____

\$20.00 Application Fee

\$50.00 Band Membership (If outside of 90 miles from Memphis)

TOTAL INCLUDED: \$ _____

Please fill-in all required fields, sign and date, staple and mail this three-page application to:

**MEMPHIS BLUES SOCIETY
1910 MADISON AVE., #627
MEMPHIS TN 38104
ATTN: TRACY SOW- CHARIMAN OF IBC MEMPHIS COMPETITION**

*******MUST BE POSTMARKED BY October 9, 2017*******

DID YOU DO IT ALL?

MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION? _____

INCLUDED CD OR CASSETTE OF THREE ORIGINAL SONGS? _____

INCLUDED CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR \$20.00 APPLICATION FEE _____

MADE OUT TO MEMPHIS BLUES SOCIETY? (\$70.00 if outside 90 miles of Memphis) _____

EMAILED BAND BIO _____

EMAILED BAND PROMO (jpeg only at least 1600 x 1200 high resolution - 300px) _____

Email address: mbsibc@memphisbluessociety.com

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BLUES FOUNDATION OFFICIAL IBC RULES INCLUDE:

The only artists who are deemed ineligible for the International Blues Challenge are artists whose names have been nominated for a Blues Music Award-whose name has appeared on a final Blues Music Award ballot-in the 30 + year history of the Blues Music Awards (and formerly the W.C. Handy Awards).

An act is limited to two consecutive appearances at the IBC and must then sit out at least one year before being eligible to compete again. An act under the same name will not be allowed to compete three consecutive years.

An individual may not compete in more than one act in any capacity.

A musician cannot compete in the Band Division and the Solo/Duo Division, even if that musician represents a different Affiliate in each.

DEFINITION OF BAND / SOLO/DUO AND YOUTH ACTS

Band - any act with three or more musicians. Vocalists are counted as musicians for the purpose of this competition. Both electric and acoustic instruments are allowed.

Solo/Duo - any act with one or two musicians. Vocalists are counted as musicians for the purpose of this competition. Both electric and acoustic instruments are allowed.

Youth - any act that all members are under the age of 21 at the time of the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. PLEASE NOTE: Youth acts can be appointed by the board of an affiliate. A competition is not required.

SCORING CONTENT

The Blues Foundation recommends that all Affiliated Organizations in their competition use our established scoring criteria. Categories include Talent Vocal, Blues Content, Stage Presence and Originality.

Blues Content: Everyone has his or her own interpretation of what is and is not Blues. Thus, any given three-judge panel will include members with varying opinions of Blues, covering the spectrum of Blues whenever possible, from the most traditional to soul/blues and rock/blues. Bands should pick material carefully. At the Memphis semi-finals and finals, the judges are Blues professionals, not a bar crowd, and are likely to be unimpressed with song selections that are uninspired. (Call this--with all due respect to Sir Mack Rice and Wilson Pickett--the "no Mustang Sally rule.")

Vocals: The acts vocal skills.

Talent: The acts instrumental skills.

Originality: Original work is encouraged. Cover tunes are allowed but playing the recorded rendition lick by lick is discouraged; will not be looked upon favorably by the judges; and will be reflected in scoring.

Stage Presence: Over the years, the quality of talent has risen so dramatically that we no longer consider this an "amateur" competition. Most contestants have performed on stage enough to know that they are not simply playing music, but putting on a show. This category rates how "sellable" a band may be.

BLUES FOUNDATION OFFICIAL IBC RULES INCLUDE:

To reflect the relative importance of each category in the success of a band, a band's score in each category is weighted. Raw scores for Blues Content is multiplied by 4, Talent and vocals by 3 and Originality and Stage Presence are multiplied by 2. The total in each category represents the Weighted Score for that category. Total possible weighted score is 140.

PENALTY POINTS

A Band is penalized one point from its Total Weighted Score for each ten seconds that it runs overtime. There is no penalty for using less than the allotted time.

SCORING SYSTEM FOR JUDGES

Each judge will indicate his or her Raw Score (a whole number between 1 and 10) in each category and turn that information over to the scorekeeper.

1-3 Typical of a beginning blues band.

4-5 Typical of a local weekend band.

6-7 Typical of an advanced local band but not yet ready to headline a major blues club.

8-9 Typical of the quality of blues artists who headline major clubs.

10 Typical of those who play the main stage at major festivals such as Telluride or King Biscuit

The scorekeeper will multiply the Raw Score in each category by the established multiplier to get each judge's Weighted Score in each category for each act.

The Weighted Scores from each category for an act are added together to determine the acts' Total Weighted Score for each judge. The weighted multipliers will be Blues content (4); talent (3); vocals (3); originality (2) and stage presence (2).

Penalty points will then be deducted to obtain the act's Net Weighted Score for each judge. Once all total points for each act is determined, the act with the highest total in the Band and the Solo/Duo will be declared winners.

In the event of a Tie, the scorekeeper will rank each act per each judge's scores. 1st place for each judge is awarded 5 points, second place 4 points, etc. Those totals will be added to the Weighted scores of the tied participants to determine the winner.