



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

2019 OFFICIAL APPLICATION

MEMPHIS BLUES SOCIETY

Battle of the Blues Challenge in Memphis 2019

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 Wednesday October 02, 2019

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 president@memphisbluessociety.com and MemphisBluesSocietyMembership@gmail.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. If paying by check, make checks payable to the 'Memphis Blues Society' (Fee will be returned if your act is not selected to compete.) **ALL ACTS MUST BE MEMBERS OF THE MBS IN THE 'BAND' CATEGORY.** The one-year MBS band membership fee is: \$50. Membership applications are available online, and can be paid securely online at: <http://www.MemphisBluesSociety.com>.
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 – Tuesday October 08 & Wednesday October 09, 2019, High Cotton Brewing Co., 598 Monroe Avenue, Memphis, TN 38103, 7-11pm each night (All acts must play BOTH nights)
B: 36th International Blues Challenge - January 28-February 01, 2020 in the clubs on Beale Street, Memphis, TN
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

Table with 2 columns: Field Name, Value. Fields include 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: ANGELA GHOREISHI- PRESIDENT, MEMPHIS BLUES SOCIETY

*****MUST BE POSTMARKED BY October 03, 2019*****

CHECKLIST: DID YOU DO IT ALL?

- MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION? _____
Mailing Address: MEMPHIS BLUES SOCIETY, 1910 MADISON AVE., #627, Memphis, TN 38104
INCLUDED CD OR CASSETTE OF THREE ORIGINAL SONGS? _____
INCLUDED CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR \$20.00 APPLICATION FEE _____
MADE PAYABLE 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: president@memphisbluessociety.com and MemphisBluesSocietyMembership@gmail.com

The Blues Foundation



Save the date for the 36th IBC
January 28 – February 1, 2020

INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE

RULES AND SCORING CRITERIA

IBC judges are Blues professionals and aficionados with a deep understanding and historical perspective of all blues forms. Any given three-judge panel will include members with varying opinions of Blues, covering the spectrum of Blues from the most traditional to soul/blues and rock/blues.

Scoring Categories and Definitions:

- **Blues Content:** The sound and feel of the music should be true to any of blues sub-categories: traditional blues, country blues, soul blues, blues rock and/or contemporary blues. Judges will be listening for inspired and original song selections or new takes on blues standards. Creative reach is encouraged.
- **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.

Acts must indicate if their songs are their own original material (this can be done at the start of the set or before each song as appropriate) and/or identify the covers that they are playing and acknowledge the originator.

- **Vocals:** The act's vocal skills to include concepts of tone, musicality, meaning, and expression.
- **Instrumental Talent:** Ability level on all instruments featured within the act.
- **Stage Presence:** The ability to command the attention of the audience by the impressiveness of one's manner and appearance on stage. Judges will consider how an act connects with and engages the audience in the music. Proper use of microphones and amplification will be considered.

Basic Scoring Calculation:

Judges will score acts on a 10-point scale, with 10 points being the highest score received and 1 point being the lowest. The following weights will be used in calculating final scores:

- Raw scores for Blues Content will be multiplied by four
- Raw scores for Originality will be multiplied by three
- Raw scores for Talent and for Vocals will be multiplied by two
- Raw scores for Stage Presence will be multiplied by two

The maximum Total Weighted Score an act may receive is 130.

Penalty Points:

An act will be penalized one point from its Total Weighted Score for each of the following:

- Missing the online application deadline or not completing online application completely or accurately by the deadline.
- Missing act check-in or act registration on the first day of the event
- Each night the act neglects to check in with its Venue Coordinator at least 20 minutes before the first performance begins at the assigned venue.
- Excessive time loading-in before and/or loading out after a competition performance
- Failing to acknowledge that a song is a cover and/or not giving credit to its originator
- Each ten seconds that it runs overtime during a competition performance.
- Finishing 3 or more minutes before its allotted performance time expires.
- Showing up late and/or missing Finals Orientation
- Showing up late and/or not being ready to perform on time at the Finals
- Performing in any other venue in the city of Memphis during formal IBC hours and in direct conflict with Blues Foundation programmed activities

The Blues Foundation strongly suggests that after meeting with their Venue Coordinator for their required check-in each night, each act remain in their assigned venue in order to be immediately available to perform at the Venue Coordinator's direction. The Venue Coordinator will be responsible for assessing Penalty Points based on IBC rules.

Affiliates and/or Acts are prohibited from contacting any IBC venue for any reason, and any act that directly contacts a venue leading up to or during the course of the International Blues Challenge will be subject to disqualification. The Blues Foundation is your ONLY contact for this competition.

SCORING SYSTEM FOR JUDGES

1. Each judge will indicate his or her Raw Score, between 1 and 10, in each category and turn that information over to the Scorekeeper using the following scale:
 - **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
1. The Scorekeeper will multiply the Raw Score in each category by the established multiplier to get each judge's Individual Weighted Score in each category for each act.
2. The Individual Weighted Scores for each category will be added together to determine each act's Total Weighted Score for each judge.
3. Any penalty points assigned will then be deducted from each judge's Total Weighted Score to obtain the act's Net Weighted Score for each judge.
4. After all acts have been judged and each act's Net Weighted Score per judge calculated, each act will be ranked by judge based on that judge's order of scores, with the act receiving the judge's highest Net Weighted Score being given a ranking of 1, and so on for that judge. This will reveal each acts Final Ranking Number for each judge.

5. The Scorekeeper then will total the Final Ranking Number from all judges for each act to determine the Gross Final Ranking. This figure is averaged (divided by the total number of judges) to Achieve the Aggregate Act Ranking.
6. For the Quarter-Finals the act in each venue with the best two-day total of Aggregate Act Ranking will advance to the semi-finals.
7. For the semi-finals, the act in each venue with the best Aggregate Act Ranking for the night will advance to the finals.
8. For the finals, the act with the best Aggregate Act Ranking will be the top finisher.
9. In the case of a tie, the Scorekeeper shall calculate the sum of all Net Weighted Scores from all judges for the tied acts. The band with the higher sum of Net Weighted Scores wins.