



**2021 OFFICIAL APPLICATION
MEMPHIS BLUES SOCIETY, BATTLE OF THE BLUES CHALLENGE, MEMPHIS, TN
MEMPHIS BLUES SOCIETY, 1910 MADISON AVE., #627 Memphis, TN 38104**

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

******* IMPORTANT: NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE OFFICIAL POSTMARK DEADLINE DATE: FRIDAY OCTOBER 15, 2021. *******

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 the listed email addresses:

- president@memphisbluessociety.com
- MemphisBluesSocietyMembership@gmail.com

2. Submitted applications must include an audio CD of original music. Quality of recording and/or graphics is not considered in selecting and only the first three songs will be considered. The CD 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 MEMPHIS BLUES SOCIETY IN THE 'BAND' CATEGORY. The one-year Memphis Blues Society band membership fee is: \$50. Membership applications are available online, and can be paid securely online at: <http://www.MemphisBluesSociety.com>.

4. Acts outside a 90-mile radius 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. Memphis Blues Society Battle of the Blues Judging – Tuesday October 26 & Wednesday October 27, 2021, B-Side Memphis, 1553 Madison Ave., Suite 101, Memphis, TN 38104, 6:30-11pm each night (All acts must play BOTH nights)
- B. 37th International Blues Challenge, January 18 to January 22, 2022 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 Memphis Blues Society board and only in the case of an emergency. The Memphis Blues Society 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.



MEMPHIS BLUES SOCIETY - 1910 MADISON, AVE., #627, Memphis, TN 38104
 BATTLE OF THE BLUES CHALLENGE APPLICATION

NAME OF BAND	
WEBSITE	
FACEBOOK	
SOCIAL MEDIA (OTHER)	

MEMBERS: (LIST FULL NAME. VOCALS ARE TO BE LISTED 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 do you require any additional or special equipment other than standard backline gear (Drum kit, Keyboard, Bass amp, 3 Guitar amps)? Please list below:

- Does your drummer require a left-handed set-up: YES or NO? (Please circle)
- Please include a CD of three original songs for submission consideration:

LIST FIRST THREE SONG TITLES AS THEY APPEAR ON SUBMISSION:

1	
2	
3	



MEMPHIS BLUES SOCIETY - 1910 MADISON, AVE., #627, Memphis, TN 38104
 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 listed in this document. Any misrepresentation will result in disqualification.

SIGNATURE OF BAND REPRESENTATIVE:

\$20.00 Application Fee + \$50.00 Band Membership [If applicant doesn't have a current Band membership (OR if they reside outside a 90-mile radius of Memphis, TN)]

TOTAL INCLUDED: \$_____

Please print this application, 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 15, 2021*******

CHECKLIST: DID YOU COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING?

- MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION? Mailing Address: MEMPHIS BLUES SOCIETY, 1910 MADISON AVE., #627, Memphis, TN 38104
- INCLUDE CD WITH THREE ORIGINAL SONGS?
- INCLUDE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR \$20.00 APPLICATION FEE? MADE PAYABLE TO 'MEMPHIS BLUES SOCIETY' PLUS \$50.00 Band Membership [If applicant doesn't have a current Band membership (OR if they reside outside a 90-mile radius of Memphis, TN)]
- EMAIL BAND BIO?
- EMAIL BAND PROMO PHOTO (.jpeg only at least 1600 x 1200 high resolution - 300px) to
 Email addresses: president@memphisbluessociety.com
MemphisBluesSocietyMembership@gmail.com

The Blues Foundation



Save the date for the 37th IBC
January 18 – January 22, 2022

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
2. 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.
3. The Individual Weighted Scores for each category will be added together to determine each act's Total Weighted Score for each judge.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. For the Quarterfinals the act in each venue with the best two-day total of Aggregate Act Ranking will advance to the semi-finals.
8. For the Semi-Finals, the act in each venue with the best Aggregate Act Ranking for the night will advance to the finals.
9. For the Finals, the act with the best Aggregate Act Ranking will be the top finisher.
10. 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.

Final Round Structure

Sets will be scored using the same criteria as all other rounds. All Final Round judges will not have served on any previous round, so each band will be performing for a totally new set of ears. Additionally, no judges in the Finals will be members of The Blues Foundation Board or from any Affiliate for maximum impartiality.

Venue Assignment and Order of Appearance

All venues will be assigned randomly with the only consideration being required equipment determined by each act's registration materials. The order of appearance of acts in each venue is also random.

Other Considerations

1. Backline and Equipment

The Blues Foundation will provide backline and sound. The setup on stage will include a drum kit with snare drums, amps, keyboards and mics. The backline in each venue will be based on the act's registration information. **Drummers** should bring their own cymbals and kick pedals. **Harmonica** players may (but are not required to) bring their own harp amp. **Keyboard** players are allowed (but are not required) to bring their own keyboard and keyboard amps. Keyboard stands will be provided. Effects racks and other auxiliary equipment are permitted. Musicians *must* include on the online registration form any additional or special equipment needed.

Competitors are *prohibited* from bringing their own guitar amplifiers (harp amps and keyboard amps being the only exceptions). Musicians should bring their own DI boxes. Every effort will be made to provide suitable equipment. Exceptions to this prohibition may only be granted pursuant to a formal written petition submitted in writing and received via email by the Event Producer (joe@blues.org) no less than 60 days prior to the quarter-finals competition. Make sure to also include a request in the act's online registration. With the number of bands participating in each venue, it is impossible for us to allow every player to bring an amp, space considerations prohibit it. Thus, any petition for an equipment waiver must include a compelling reason for exclusion.

2. International Musicians

Musicians from outside the United States are *highly* encouraged to ensure they have a valid passport or that there is sufficient time to obtain a passport before coming to Memphis should they win their local challenge.

3. Participation in Showcases and other Events

There are a number of showcases, jams, and other programs happening on Beale Street during the IBC. Musicians are free to participate in these events should they be invited but they should ensure that such events are not interfering with official IBC activities.

****** The Blues Foundation reserves the right to use any contestant's name, voices, pictures, visages and other likeness for the purpose of advertising, publishing and promoting the IBC or The Blues Foundation.***

The Blues Foundation reserves the right to videotape or otherwise record all IBC performances. The Blues Foundation shall retain total ownership of all recordings and programs, and reserves the right to edit the program, the right to broadcast the program, the right to copyright the program and the right to license others to use these rights. * * *

Should you have any questions or concerns, The Blues Foundation staff is always an email or phone call away to assist you. Please do not hesitate to call on us:

Joe Whitmer, Event Producer

joe@blues.org

(901) 527-2583 ext. 11
