

Memphis Blues Society 2021 Best Self-Produced CD Competition Instructions

The Memphis Blues Society is now soliciting entrants for "Best Self-Produced CD" competition. Entrants must send the Memphis Blues Society **6 copies** of their self-produced CD for ranking by an independent panel of judges SELECTED BY THE Memphis Blues Society Board of Directors.

The Memphis Blues Society will pay for the reproduction of the winning CD and distribution to the national selection panel selected by the Blues Foundation during the 2022 International Blues Challenge.

What is the Best Self-Produced CD Award?

In 2005, The Blues Foundation established an award for the **Best Self-Produced CD**, given out at the International Blues Challenge, as part of their mission to celebrate blues recording and to ensure the future of this uniquely American art form. Unlike our celebration of blues recordings and performances at the Blues Music Awards, or our recognition of up-and-coming musician performance via The International Blues Challenge, this award was created to recognize excellence in independent Blues recordings.

Best Self-Produced Official Rules:

- The CD entered may be recorded and performed by an act other than is entered in the current year's International Blues Challenge.
- Compilations are not eligible.
- Only CDs released between November 1, 2019 and October 31, 2021 are eligible for consideration as the 2022 Best Self-Produced CD.
- **A performer who has previously been nominated for a Blues Music Award (formerly the W.C. Handy Blues Award) shall not be eligible for this competition. A CD issued in the name of an otherwise eligible performer which also includes the contributions of a Blues Music Award nominee may be ineligible, depending on the extent of the contribution. Please contact The Blues Foundation directly to confirm eligibility.**
- **A CD on a record label that has been previously nominated for a Blues Music Award (formerly the W.C. Handy Blues Award) shall not be eligible for this competition.**
- Judging for the 2022 international finalist will take place in three rounds. Judges will remain anonymous in order to protect them from outside influences and represent a cross-section of professionals from the blues radio and print industry. The final results will be announced at the finals of the 37th International Blues Challenge on Saturday, January 22, 2022 held at the historic Orpheum Theatre in Memphis, TN.

Evaluation Criteria:

Judges will evaluate each submitted CD on the following characteristics. The criteria considered are listed in order of importance.

1. Blues Content
2. Musical Performance
3. Audio Quality and Production Value of the Recording
4. Professionalism and Visual Appearance of Cover Art and Design
5. Credits and Liner Note Information.

How to Submit:

1. Entrants must send the Memphis Blues Society **6 copies** of their self-produced CD.
2. Enclose a business card or written list that includes complete mailing address, contact name, phone number and email address.
3. **Submissions MUST be received by The Memphis Blues Society NO LATER THAN Thursday October 07, 2021 at the following address: Memphis Blues Society Best Self-Produced CD, 1910 Madison Ave., #627, Memphis, TN 38104.**

The winning finalist will be announced prior to The International Blues Challenge with the winner revealed during the IBC Finals on January 22, 2022. Finalists are NOT required to attend International Blues Challenge.