

**Welcome to the Mile High Blues Society's 2019  
International Blues Challenge.**

**There are three categories in which acts may  
compete – (1) Band Category (2) Solo / Duo  
Category, (3) Youth Showcase (all members of the  
band MUST still be under 21 ON January 26, 2019).**

Entry fee is \$40 per Act and each Act must have a current BAND membership with the Mile High Blues Society in good standing. The FINAL winning acts must have a BAND MHBS membership that is paid THROUGH FEBRUARY 2019.

**The Blues Foundation International Blues Challenge will be held in  
Memphis, Tennessee from January 22 through 26, 2019.**

35th International Blues Challenge

**Three Categories**

**BAND**

**SOLO/DUO**

**YOUTH SHOWCASE**

**REGISTRATION OPEN APRIL 15, 2018 THROUGH MAY 31, 2018 (5pm  
Mountain Time)!**

**PRELIMINARY ROUNDS**

**SUNDAY JULY 15**

**SUNDAY JULY 22**

**SUNDAY JULY 29**

**FINALS**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 12**

**SET TIMES:**

**PRELIMINARY ROUND - 25 MINUTES**

**FINAL ROUND - 20 MINUTES**

**The Preliminary Round dates used will be determined by the number of  
registrations!**

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**Welcome to the Mile High Blues Society's 2019 International Blues Challenge.**

**There are three categories in which acts may compete – (1) Band Competition, (2) Solo / Duo Competition and (3) Youth Showcase.**

**MHBS will follow the Blues Foundation's rules as closely as possible. The exceptions MHBS has to the Blues Foundation rules is we allow CURRENT MHBS MEMBERS to VOTE for their favorite band, solo/duo, and youth showcase act during the competition (preliminary and finals)**

**Another exceptions is MHBS has two rounds - Preliminary and Finals. We do not have 'quarter-finals'.**

**Also please note, the weighting of categories.**

**REMEMBER - the acts are competing against the SCORE SHEET - not each other or other acts!**

**Be completely aware of the scoring criteria and what each category covers!**

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Entry fee is \$40 per Act and each Act must have a current BAND membership with the Mile High Blues Society in good standing and paid.

The FINAL winning acts must have a BAND MHBS membership that is paid THROUGH FEBRUARY 2019.

Individuals are allowed, and encouraged, to compete in both the Band and Solo/Duo competitions all the way up to and through the Finals. But please keep in mind if any Act wins at the Finals in both categories they will have to make a decision at that point in time as to which Act they will compete with in Memphis.

The winner of each category will go on to represent the Mile High Blues Society in the Blues Foundation's 2019 International Blues Challenge (IBC) in Memphis, Tennessee to be held January 22-26, 2019

**MHBS IBC Registration is between April 15, 2018 through May 31, 2018 (5pm, mountain time)**

**Submissions and payment must be received NO LATER THAN May 31, 2018 at 5pm (or in that postmarked envelope).**

**Paper entries must be post marked NO LATER THAN May 31, 2018 and mailed to:**

**Mile High Blues Society**  
**P. O. Box 12464**  
**Denver, Colorado 80212-2464**

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## **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.

**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.

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.

## **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 will be multiplied by two

Raw scores 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 from the judges is 130.

Each judge will account for 30% of the total vote each, totaling 90%.

TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE SCORE WILL BE FROM BALLOTS CAST BY FANS, **WHO ARE CURRENT MHBS MEMBERS**, ATTENDING THE DENVER BLUES CHALLENGE. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO GET AS MANY OF YOUR FANS TO THE SHOW AS POSSIBLE. To become a MHBS Member you can sign up on the [JOIN!](#) link on our website.

## **Penalty Points:**

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

Missing act check-in or act registration on the day of the event

Excessive time loading-in before and/or loading out after a competition performance - each act is allotted 5 minutes to set up and 5 minutes to tear down and be off of the stage.

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 performance order drawing at Preliminary or Finals

Showing up late and/or not being ready to perform on time.

## **BLUES CHALLENGE FORMAT**

During the Preliminary round, the sets will be 25 minutes long, with 10 minutes between sets. During the Final round, sets will be 20 minutes long, with 10 minutes between sets. Five minutes to tear down - Five minutes to set up. Penalty points may be deducted if you exceed the allocated five minutes.

## **STAGING AND EQUIPMENT**

The Mile High Blues Society will provide backline and sound. The setup on stage will include a drum kit with snare drum, amplifiers, and microphones. Drummers should bring their own snare, cymbals and kick pedals (Yes, you will need your cymbals, you might want to bring your own snare too) and Harmonica players CAN (but are not required) bring their own harp amp. Keyboard players must bring their own keyboards and keyboard amps. Effects racks and other auxiliary equipment are permitted.

Competitors are prohibited from bringing their own amplifiers (keyboard and harmonica amps being the only exceptions.) Please bring a DI (if you use one) every effort will be made to provide suitable equipment.

The Mile High Blues Society reserves the right to approve or restrict any and all equipment an entrant wishes to bring on stage.

Microphones will be provided. Competitors are welcome to use their own microphone if they wish.

### **ORDER OF APPEARANCE**

The performance ORDER for each act will be randomly drawn at the performance venue an hour before the start of each event, on the day of the event. A representative from EACH act MUST be present during the drawing.

## **From the Blues Foundation**

### **<https://blues.org/international-blues-challenge/> About the Challenge**

The International Blues Challenge represents the worldwide search for those Blues Bands and Solo/Duo Blues Acts ready to perform on the international stage, yet just needing that extra big break. Each Affiliate of The Blues Foundation has the right to send a band and a solo/duo act to represent its organization at the IBC.

The IBC is judged by blues professionals from across the world who have years of experience in listening to, producing, and creating blues music. The Blues Foundation has established a set of criteria by which all acts are evaluated throughout the five days of the IBC.

Affiliated organizations are required to stage a regional preliminary IBC competition, with the winner of that event representing the organization in the

International Blues Challenge held annually in Memphis, TN along historic Beale Street. While Affiliated Organizations are encouraged to follow The Blues Foundation's structure and rules during their local challenges, each organization is free to structure its preliminary rounds as it sees fit, as long as a true challenge between multiple acts takes place resulting in a single band and/or solo/duo act being identified.

**The official rules from the Blues Foundation**  
**<https://blues.org/official-ibc-rules/>**

PRINT, COMPLETE, and SUBMIT PAGES (7 through 11):

Registration may be electronically submitted via the Mile High Blues Society website <http://www.MileHighBluesSociety.com> or via this printed form and mailed to MHBS.

MHBS  
P.O. Box 12464  
Denver, Colorado 80212-2464

Submission must be postmarked NO LATER THAN MAY 31, 2018  
5pm Mountain Time.

#### Entry Form:

An act is limited to three consecutive appearances at the IBC, i.e. there must be a break of at least one year after competing in three back-to back IBCs. If you complete in more than one category with MHBS and WIN more than one category you MUST select which category you are going to compete in Memphis with. That decision must be made at the time the Finalist winners are announced.

Any act, band, or solo/duo, that has won first place at the IBC in Memphis may not enter a challenge in that same category in the future. An individual musician who has won the IBC as a solo performer may not re-enter as part of a duo, nor can a member of an IBC winning duo then enter as a solo performer.

The undersigned hereby attests that all competitors listed on this registration form are in fact 18 years of age or older or have parental permission to compete if they are under 18. That all competitors including the Spokesperson for the individual(s) listed on this registration form and identified by real or stage name and herein referred to as the Act. The Act is defined as a soloist or individuals performing together. The undersigned Spokesperson further attests that each person identified as a member of the Act has not received a Blues Music Award nomination and the Act has not competed at the Memphis IBC the previous three consecutive years representing a Blues Society and/or affiliate.

It is agreed by the Spokesperson that he/she and each member of the Act, do hereby exempt from all liability the Mile High Blues Society and all persons, organizations and companies that are directly or indirectly associated with the Mile High Blues Society's 2019 International Blues Challenge competition.

It is further agreed by the Spokesperson that he/she and each member of the Act listed on this registration form permits the Mile High Blues Society the right to make use of his/her names, voices, pictures, visages, and other likenesses of the Act, for the purpose of advertising and promoting the Mile

High Blues Society.

The Spokesperson further agrees, that should their Act be the winner they agree to sign a contract with the Mile High Blues Society regarding acceptance of monies to offset expenses in Memphis and for their performance at the IBC competition in Memphis, and the return of such funds should winning Act elect not to participate in the IBC in Memphis.

Spokespersons Name:

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Email:

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Contact Telephone Number:

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Address:

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Website:

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Are you registering as a "BAND" or "SOLO / DUO" or "YOUTH SHOWCASE" act? **(Circle One)**

BAND

SOLO / DUO

YOUTH SHOWCASE



Name of Act

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Member names and instrumentation of ALL performers in your act:

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Biography of your act (600 characters, including spaces, or less)

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Stage Setup Requirement **(Circle all that apply)**

- 1 Vocalist
- 2 Vocalists
- 3 Vocalists
- 4 Vocalists
- 5 Vocalists
- 1 Guitarist
- 2 Guitarists
- 3 Guitarists
- 1 Bass Player
- 2 Bass Players
- 1 Drummer / Percussionist
- 2 Drummers / Percussionists
- 1 Harmonica Player
- 1 Keyboard / Piano Player
- Other Instrument:

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MHBS Membership Renewed Date:

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Individual or Band Name on MHBS Membership:

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Questions / Comments / Potential Conflicts:

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Mile High Blues Society will make every reasonable attempt to resolve any and all potential conflicts regarding dates. The acts who register first will be given earlier consideration regarding conflicts as they will be addressed on a first register – first resolve basis. Every attempt will be made to equally distribute the number of acts competing on each date, if possible, while considering potential conflicts.

The undersigned spokesperson, hereby acknowledges that each member of the Act is knowledgeable of and agrees to abide by the terms herein stated

and the rules of the challenge as set forth by the Mile High Blues Society.

Name:

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Signature:

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Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

PLEASE KEEP A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS.

CHECKLIST:

DID YOU...

\_\_\_\_\_ Purchase / Renew / Verify current Band Membership to MHBS? \$40

\_\_\_\_\_ Purchase an IBC Act Registration, \$40 per Act?

\_\_\_\_\_ Fill out the complete Entry Form?

\_\_\_\_\_ Fill out the biography?

\_\_\_\_\_ Email MHBS a high quality band photo (300dpi)?  
to [EntryIBC@MileHighBluesSociety.com](mailto:EntryIBC@MileHighBluesSociety.com)

\_\_\_\_\_ Sign and date the registration form?

\_\_\_\_\_ Email or physically mail MHBS your completed registration form?  
to [EntryIBC@MileHighBluesSociety.com](mailto:EntryIBC@MileHighBluesSociety.com)

\_\_\_\_\_ Pay online or include your check for registration and MHBS Band  
Membership, made payable to Mile High Blues Society?

If you did not pay your IBC Act registration fee or your MHBS Band Membership  
fee via our online store, please mail checks to:

Mile High Blues Society  
P.O. Box 12464  
Denver, Colorado 80212-2464

All payments and entries must be postmarked NO LATER THAN MAY 31, 2018  
5pm Mountain Time.

Thank you for entering the MHBS Denver Blues Challenge & Good Luck!