



NASHVILLE **BLUES** CHALLENGE

ARTIST APPLICATION

The Nashville Blues Society will hold its 6th annual **Nashville Blues Challenge** the week of October 24, 2016. Preliminaries will be held at World Music Nashville. Finals will be Sunday, October 30th at the Hard Rock Café. The Challenge is a judged showcase and competition of blues bands and solo/duo blues artists – a “Battle of the Blues Bands”, in which competitors take the stage and play a short set for a panel of judges. The acts are judged based on an established set of criteria, included in this packet.

The winning band(s) and solo/duo artist(s) will represent Nashville in the 2017 International Blues Challenge (IBC), in Memphis from January 31 – February 4, competing against winning entrants from affiliated blues societies worldwide. The IBC is the nation's biggest and most respected showcase for Blues musicians, and represents an international search by The Blues Foundation and its Affiliated Organizations (mostly blues societies) for the Blues Band and Solo/Duo Blues Act ready to perform on a national stage.

ELIGIBILITY:

The **Nashville Blues Challenge** is open to working adult and youth blues bands, and solo/duo artists representing Middle Tennessee.

APPLICATION FEE:

Members and member bands may apply for free. All non-members must pay an application fee of \$30, which also covers one year of membership. **Pages 1 and 2 of the application form must be received (with a check or money order payable to Nashville Blues Society if non-member) no later than October 7, 2016** at: Nashville Blues Society, P.O. Box 330548, Church Street Station, Nashville, TN 37203



ARTIST APPLICATION



Please Complete the Following Information

Band/Artist Name:

Contact Name: *If Youth, include responsible parent name*

Telephone: ()

Email:

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

PLEASE IDENTIFY ALL MEMBERS OF THE BAND/SOLO/DUO ACT BELOW

<i>Member Name</i>	<i>Vocal/Instrument(s) played</i>

Artist Website and/or Video Links (Required):

PLEASE PROVIDE A SHORT BIO (200 WORDS OR LESS) Use back of form if needed

JUDGING AND SCORING:

All acts participating in the Nashville Blues Challenge will be judged in five (5) categories. Each category will be scored on a scale of 1 to 10. The categories are:

JUDGING CATEGORIES	
BLUES CONTENT	Everyone has his or her own interpretation of what is and is not Blues, but this is a blues competition and we want the best blues act to come out on top not the best act, regardless of blues content. An act may score very high in talent but not have much blues content.
INSTRUMENTAL TALENT	This category refers to the act's instrumental skills.
VOCAL TALENT	This category refers to the act's vocal skills
ORIGINALITY	Original work may be new and different, some of it good and perhaps some not so good. Some original work may sound very much like existing standards. Some cover tunes are played lick for lick while others are played in a creative new way. All of these factors are considered in scoring for Originality.
STAGE PRESENCE	Most contestants have performed on stage enough to know that they are not simply playing music, but putting on a show. This category rates the performance aspects of the show.
SCORING	
Because music appreciation can be subjective, we have developed some suggested guidelines to help keep judges' scores more consistent:	
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 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 could play the main stage at major festivals such as Chicago or the King Biscuit Blues Festival
To reflect the relative importance among the categories, the scores in each category are weighted. Raw scores for Blues Content are multiplied by four, each Talent category by three, and Originality and Stage Presence by two.	