



2017 PBS ARIZONA BLUES SHOWDOWN

SEMI-FINALS - Sunday September 17th, 2017 @ The Rhythm Room, 1019 E. Indian School Rd.

PBS FINALS - Sunday September 24th, 2017 @ The Rhythm Room, 1019 E. Indian School Rd.

An Official Preliminary to the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Jan 16 - Jan 20, 2018

1. Who can enter?

A Blues act cannot enter the International Blues Challenge (IBC) directly. Only a Blues Foundation Affiliate (i.e. Phoenix Blues Society) may sponsor an act. The act is eligible as long as it has not ever received a Blues Music Award nomination. An act may be a band, solo/duo or youth.

2. What is a band? What is a solo/duo?

PBS adheres to the Blues Foundation criteria for what constitutes a band and what constitutes a solo/duo act.

Band - any act with three or more musicians. Vocalists are counted as musicians for the purpose of this competition. Both electric and acoustic instruments are allowed.

Solo/Duo - any act with one or two musicians. Vocalists are counted as musicians for the purpose of this competition.

Both electric and acoustic instruments are allowed.

3. What does it cost to enter?

The cost to enter for either band or solo/duo is \$50.

4. Are there any restrictions?

An act is limited to **two** consecutive appearances at the IBC and must then sit out at least one year before being eligible to compete again. PBS welcomes bands to compete multiple times; however, once you've won a total of **three** times, we ask you to step aside and allow others their chance. Please do not re-apply after three wins.

An individual may not compete in more than one act in any capacity.

A musician cannot compete in the Band Division and the Solo/Duo Division, even if that musician represents a different Affiliate in each.

5. How does PBS Arizona Blues Showdown winner enter the 2018 IBC?

The winner of each category for the Arizona Blues Showdown will be given an IBC registration code by PBS. The winner will then need to complete the online registration process by the due date.

6. What is the Scoring Criteria?

The Phoenix Blues Society follows The Blues Foundation scoring criteria in our Arizona Blues Showdown competition. The judging categories are: **Blues Content, Vocals, Talent, Originality, and Stage Presence.**

- A. **Blues Content:** Everyone has his or her own interpretation of what is and is not Blues. Thus, any given judge panel will include members with varying opinions of Blues, covering the spectrum of Blues whenever possible, from the most traditional to soul blues and rock blues. Bands should pick material carefully. At the Memphis quarterfinals, semi-finals and finals, the judges are Blues professionals, not a bar crowd, and are likely to be unimpressed with song selections that are uninspired. (Call this--with all due respect to Sir Mack Rice and Wilson Pickett--the "no Mustang Sally rule.")
- B. **Vocals:** The act's vocal skills.
- C. **Talent:** The act's instrumental skills.
- D. **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. If selecting covers, it is important to "make the song your own".
- E. **Stage Presence:** Over the years, the quality of talent has risen so dramatically that we no longer consider this an "amateur" competition. Most contestants

have performed on stage enough to know that they are not simply playing music, but putting on a show. This category rates how "sellable" a band may be.

To reflect the relative importance of each category in the success of a band, a band's score in each category is weighted. Raw scores for Blues Content is multiplied by four, Talent and Vocals by three and Originality and Stage Presence are multiplied by two. The total in each category represents the weighted score for that category. Total possible weighted score is 140. High and low scores will be thrown out in order to ensure accurate and fair results.

Penalty Points: A Band is penalized one point from its total weighted score for each ten seconds that it runs overtime. There is no penalty for using less than the allotted time. At the venue coordinator's discretion, a penalty for excessive time loading-in and out may also be applied.

7. Act Check-in – All acts must check-in with the Showdown coordinator upon arrival at the venue. The Showdown coordinator is Darryl Porras (cell 928)710-5480, or darrylporras@hotmail.com). Performers who arrive late may be disqualified from the competition. The Showdown coordinator will determine if your arrival is late enough to warrant disqualification.

The semi-finals are on Sunday, September 17th, 2017, and the Finals are Sunday, September 24th. Semi-final sets will be 20 minutes long. Sets for the finals will be 25 minutes long. You are requested to be at the competition venue at least 45 minutes before your scheduled performance time.

8. Final Round Structure - Sets will be scored on the same criteria as the semi-final rounds. All Finals Round judges will not have served on any Semi-Final Round panel, so each band will be performing for a totally new set of ears.

9. Staging and Equipment - PBS will provide basic backline and sound. The setup on stage will include the PBS drum kit with snare drum and cymbals, a bass amp, at least one guitar amp and mics. Drummers may bring their own cymbals and kick pedals (you might want to bring your own snare and throne too) and harmonica players who use an amp should bring their own harp amp. Keyboard players may bring their own keyboards, keyboard amps and stands. Effects (pedals, racks, etc.) and other auxiliary equipment are permitted. PBS will notify competitors of the backline to be used for the competition.

Musicians must include on the PBS Showdown application any additional or special equipment they are bringing to the competition. Please bring a DI if you use one. Every effort will be made to provide suitable equipment. Exceptions to this prohibition may only be granted pursuant to a formal written petition submitted to PBS. Include such request with your registration packet. Any petition for an equipment waiver must include a compelling reason.

Thanks!