

Welcome to the **Charlotte Blues Society 2026-27** **Blues Talent Competition Official Entry Form**

The International Blues Challenge (IBC) represents the worldwide search for blues Bands and Solo/Duo blues performers ready for the international stage, yet just needing that extra big break. The world's largest gathering of blues musicians will take place on Beale Street in Memphis, with over 20 clubs hosting the challengers and fans. In addition to featuring these final rounds of the prestigious blues music competition, the IBC event week will offer seminars, showcases, master classes, film screenings, networking events, book signings, and receptions for blues societies, fans, and professionals.

The 42nd International Blues Challenge

is scheduled for January 12-16, 2027 in downtown Memphis, TN, taking place in the Historic Beale Street Entertainment District

There are two categories in which Acts may compete

- **Solo/Duo Competition**
- **Band Competition**

The winning Band and Solo/Duo from Charlotte will represent CBS in Memphis: At least one member must be 18 or older to enter the Band or Solo/Duo competition. Registration for musicians younger than 18 must be completed by a guardian. Our competition will be held on Sunday August 2, 2026 at the Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts | Skyline Room, Charlotte, NC.

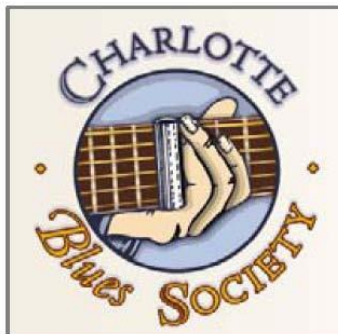
- **We will also be sponsoring a Youth Showcase Act to Memphis.**

If you wish to be considered for the Youth Act, please contact us immediately. We will walk you through the process. All Youth in the Act must be under 21 as of Jan. 12, 2027. Youth Acts play in a Beale Street showcase and receive feedback however they are not judged.

Another category in which you may participate is the

- **Best Self-produced CD**

Only CDs released between November 1, 2025 and October 31, 2026 are eligible for consideration as the 2027 Best Self-Produced CD. Please review the rules on [Blues.org/self-produced-cd-award/](https://blues.org/self-produced-cd-award/)



Entry fee is \$50 per Band, Solo/Duo is \$35 per Act, which includes Band affiliation / membership in the Charlotte Blues Society. All CBS membership privileges are extended to each Band Member and Act for one year. There is no fee for Youth or CD entries.

Eligibility

An Act is eligible as long as it, or any member of the Act, has never received a Blues Music Award nomination.

An Act may enter the IBC a *maximum* of **3** times, *after which they are no longer eligible*.

An Act may *not* participate in the IBC in three (3) consecutive years — i.e., there must be a break of at least one year after competing in a first or second IBC.

The Blues Foundation reserves the right to determine what constitutes a new Act on a case-by-case basis. (e.g., a band leader would not be eligible for another 2 attempts by changing one or two back up musicians and changing the band's name. Similarly, a solo musician could not enter the Solo/Duo category after 2 attempts by adding a partner to form a Duo).

A musician may not compete in both the band category and the solo/duo category in the same year at the IBC, even if the musician represents a different affiliate in each.

Affiliates may set their own rules regarding musicians playing in more than one Act in their local challenge.

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 winning Act in a particular category in the local challenge must enter in that same category for the IBC, i.e., if a band wins the local challenge, one or two musicians from the Band cannot enter the solo/duo category at the IBC.

Acts may enter the challenge of any affiliate within 250 miles of the home affiliate. Acts are not permitted to enter more than 2 affiliates in competition year.

Affiliates may establish their own regional boundaries as long as those boundaries do not exceed The Blues Foundation's 250 mile radius.

Acts may be invited to participate in the challenge, but they may not be "pre-selected" and must compete in a fair event.



If a winning Act withdraws before registering for the IBC, affiliates may send the Act that placed second in the local challenge. If the Act withdraws after registering for the IBC, a replacement may not be entered.

All members of the winning Act must attend the IBC. Should unexpected circumstances arise (i.e., illness, family emergencies, etc.) no more than one member or any band may be replaced.

The winner of each category will go on to represent the Charlotte Blues Society in the Blues Foundation's 2027 International Blues Challenge (IBC) in Memphis, Tennessee to be held January 12-16, 2027. The Youth Showcase is on Friday Jan 15, 2027. This will be the 42nd year of the IBC and promises to be exciting and competitive.

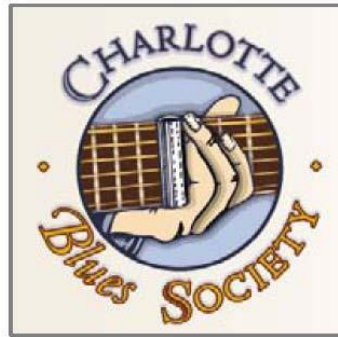
The **CBS Competition** will be held in the Skyline Room, Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts, 1030 Woodward Ave., Charlotte, NC on **Sunday, August 2, 2026**. The exact start time will be determined by July 27, 2026. If necessary, a second competition date will be added.

The Charlotte winners will be expected to play a set at the local **January 3, 2027 Show in Charlotte**. Sponsorships will be awarded at that time.

Registration is between April 15 and July 15, 2026 (5pm, Eastern Time). Registration may be submitted via email to CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com and will be confirmed by return email.

Submissions and payment must be received **NO LATER THAN** the deadline of July 15, 2026 at 5PM. Paper entries must be post marked **NO LATER THAN** deadline and mailed to: Charlotte Blues Society P. O. Box 32752, Charlotte, NC 28232-2752. (980) 349-6499

IBC Entry Form (April 14, 2026)



Entry Form

The undersigned hereby attests that at least one of the competitors listed on this registration form are in fact 18 years of age or older. If not, a parent or guardian must sign the registration form. *Note: Youth Showcase Acts may be under 18 and must be under 21, please contact CBS for details on how to enter.* 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 appeared on a final Handy/Blues Music Award ballot and the Act has not competed at the Memphis IBC the previous two years representing a Blues Society and/or affiliate, nor competed at the Memphis IBC a total of 3 years. It is further agreed that the undersigned Spokesperson has thoroughly read and understood the eligibility requirements. It is agreed by the Spokesperson that he/she/they and each member of the Act, are hereby exempt from all liability the Charlotte Blues Society and all persons, organizations and companies that are directly or indirectly associated with the Charlotte Blues Society's 2026-27 competition, or International Blues Challenge competition. It is further agreed by the Spokesperson that he/she/they and each member of the Act listed on this registration form permits the Charlotte Blues Society the right to make use of his/her/their names, voices, pictures, visages, and other likenesses of the Act, for the purpose of advertising and promoting the Charlotte Blues Society. The Spokesperson further agrees, that should their Act be the winner they agree to sign a contract with the Charlotte Blues Society regarding acceptance of monies to offset expenses in Memphis and for their performance at the IBC in Memphis, and the return of such Charlotte Blues Society – IBC Entry Form (Revised 4/7/2026) funds should winning Act elect not to participate in the IBC in Memphis

NAME OF ACT: _____

Spokespersons Name: _____

Email: _____

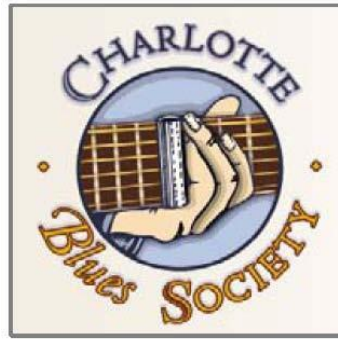
Contact Telephone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Social Media: _____

Website: _____

Alternate Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____



Are you registering as a **"BAND"** or **"SOLO / DUO"** or **"Youth"** 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.

(Circle at least one) **BAND** **SOLO / DUO** **Youth**

Name of Act _____

Member names and instrumentation of ALL performers in your Act:

Name	Instrument
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

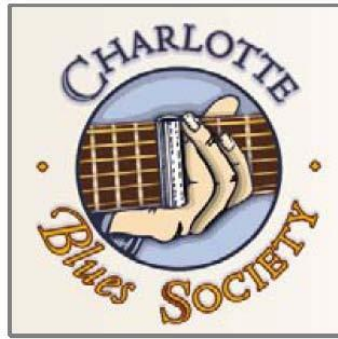
Biography of your Act (at least 150 to 200 words). Please type as it will be reproduced or send in an email with your forms.

Bio:

As original songs are an important factor in advancing through the IBC, please include digital link to MP3 or video, CD or cassette tape of three original songs for submission consideration. Note: Quality of the graphics and/or recording are not considered in selecting contestants or winners.

LIST FIRST THREE SONG TITLES AS THEY APPEAR ON SUBMISSION:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Stage Setup Requirement (Circle all that apply) Include stage plat if available

Please include a stage plot with your entry

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: _____

Individual or Band Name

Questions / Comments

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 Charlotte Blues Society as well as the rules and regulations of the International Blues Challenge (www.blues.org).

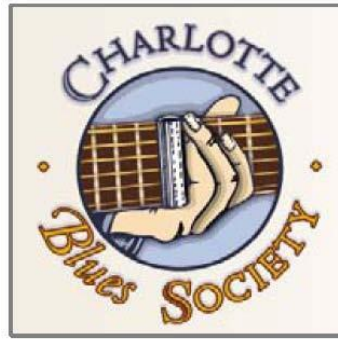
Name: (printed): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Phone: _____

PLEASE KEEP A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS

Charlotte Blues Society – IBC Entry Form (Revised 4/14/2026)



CHECKLIST:

DID YOU...

Meet the deadline of July 15, 2026 at 5PM Eastern? _____

Fill out the complete Entry Form? _____

Fill out the Biography? _____ Is it typed for legibility? _____

Email CBS a high resolution photo(s) 300+ppi in jpeg, jpg or png to CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com ?

Sign and date the Registration Form? _____

Pay registration Charlotte Blues Talent Competition, \$50 per Band, \$35 Solo/Duo Act? _____

Pay online at <https://charlottebluessociety.org/shop%2Fstore/ols/categories/entry-fee> or include your check for registration, made payable to Charlotte Blues Society? _____

Please let us know if you mailed a check? _____

Include an audio CD, cassette or links to an audio recording of at least 3 original songs? _____ Note: Quality of the graphics and/or recording are not considered in selecting contestants or winners.

Include your stage plot with Entry Form? _____

If you did not pay your IBC Act registration fee via our online store, please mail checks to: Charlotte Blues Society P. O. Box 32752, Charlotte, NC 28232-2752. All payments and entries must be postmarked NO LATER THAN dates specified for each category. Thank you for entering the Charlotte Blues Society Charlotte International Blues Challenge & Good Luck!

Charlotte Blues Society – IBC Entry Form (Revised 4/14/2026)