



THE SYDNEY BLUES SOCIETY

Sydney Blues Challenge 2017

Applications are now being accepted from eligible acts.

Solo / Duo Category Prize

\$1000 per person up to a maximum of \$2000 towards a return airfare to Memphis, Tennessee.

Band Category Prize

\$1000 per person up to a maximum of \$4000 towards a return airfare to Memphis, Tennessee.

The aim of the Sydney Blues Challenge is to find the best possible Blues Band and/or Solo/Duo Act to represent the Sydney Blues Society and NSW / ACT at the International Blues Challenge held between 16th and 20th January 2018 in Memphis, Tennessee, USA.

The Band Contest will be held on Wednesday, 25th October 2017

The Solo / Duo Contest will be held on Thursday, 9th November 2017

at Lazybones Lounge, Level 2, 294 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville

If there are only enough entries for one night, the competition will be held on Wednesday 25th October 2017.

All entries close by Friday 6th October 2017

**Entries including entry fee must be received by the due date.
No application will be accepted after this date or without the entry fee.**

**All entries are to be mailed to:
Sydney Blues Challenge, P.O. Box 197, Newtown. NSW 2042**

Please notify Di Ford by email to vicepres@sydneyblues.org after you have submitted your application to help us with tracking.

**For any enquiries regarding the Sydney Blues Challenge,
call Di Ford on 0428 608 119**

The Rules

The SBS reserve the right to accept or refuse The Act by review of their CDs.

The Act will be notified of their eligibility to compete in the Challenge after the closing date.

This is a NSW and ACT wide Blues Challenge open to any Blues act meeting the criteria below.

Dress code: Neat dress and / or costume.

All members of the act must be at least 18 years old or older.

At least one act member must reside in NSW or ACT.

A musician cannot compete in the Band Division and the Solo/Duo Division.

A musician cannot compete in more than one band in the Band Division.

The winning act may only represent the SBS at the International Blues Challenge for two consecutive years. The Act must then sit out for a year to be eligible to compete again.

The Act must be prepared to attend the Sydney Blues Challenge at their own cost and remain on site after their performance. Any member of The Act that has another gig during the night of the Sydney Blues Challenge and leaves will be disqualified. Members of The Act must be available on site when the winner is announced.

Substituting of musicians is not allowed. The members of The Act who perform on the night of the Challenge are the performers who will go to Memphis. You cannot substitute players or take different players to Memphis if you win. Immediate disqualification will apply in these circumstances and The Act awarded second place will be appointed as the SBS representative to Memphis.

In extreme circumstances of sickness or duress, the SBS committee will review changes of membership to The Act going to Memphis. The decision of the committee on the matter will be final.

The performance time for each band will be determined by a draw made by the SBS sub-committee prior to the Challenge, no performance times shall be changed after this draw.

Independent judges will judge the Challenge based on the International Blues Challenge Criteria and scores on the night are final, no correspondence will be entered into.

The Act will have 30 minutes playing time, and will lose points if they play over 30 minutes, points are not deducted for running under time.

Points will be awarded in five categories: blues content, originality, stage presence, talent and vocals.

The Sydney Blues Society Committee has the right to dismiss acts for not complying with the rules of the Challenge and for bad behaviour before, during or after this contest.

The Rules are subject to change if the International Blues Challenge rules change.

The Prize

The prize for the Sydney Blues Challenge is to represent the Sydney Blues Society and NSW and ACT in the International Blues Challenge in Memphis.

Prize for the Band Category: \$1000 per person to a maximum value of \$4000 to put towards the purchase of a return airfare Sydney to Memphis to attend the International Blues Challenge in Memphis.

Prize for the Soloist or Duo Category: \$1000 per person to a maximum of \$2000 to put towards the purchase of a return airfare Sydney to Memphis to attend the International Blues Challenge in Memphis.

All other associated costs must be met by the act and proof of your ability to support your act during the International Blues Challenge may be required.

If by any unforeseen reason The Act is unable to attend the International Blues Challenge in USA all monies including the prize, any additional SBS fundraising and donations will be returned to the Sydney Blues Society.

What You Have To Do

Fill out the attached entry form and return it to the above address.

Include a CD of The Act's music with your application including names of the performers on the disc.

Email photos of the act to vicepres@sydneyblues.org these photos should be 900 x 600 pixels (horizontal and vertical) in JPEG format.

Email a bio of 600 characters (excluding spaces) to vicepres@sydneyblues.org of the band. This bio will be used by the SBS for publicity purposes.

The SBS reserves the right to use any contestant's name, voices, pictures, visages and other likeness for the purpose of advertising, publishing and promoting the Sydney Blues Challenge.

The Act needs to supply the judges with a set list on the competition night (3 copies), stating the name of songs performed and the composer of any songs. Please highlight any songs written by present or previous band members.

Entry Fees

The Acts that are eligible to play at the Challenge will be required to pay an entry fee of \$50 per Solo/Duo Act, and \$100 per Band Act.

Please send your entry fee with your application. Monies can be paid by cheque, money order, or by direct transfer to the Sydney Blues Society account number 10020007 with CBA, BSB 062-148. Your entry will not be accepted without the entry fee.

All monies will be returned to any act that is not eligible to enter the Challenge.

Scoring Criteria

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.

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.

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.

Score Weighting: 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 x 4, Originality x 3, and Stage Presence, Instrumental Talent and Vocals x 2. The total in each category represents the Weighted Score for that category. Total possible weighted score is 130.

Penalty Points

An Act is penalized one point from its Total Weighted Score for each ten seconds that it runs overtime during the performance.



Sydney Blues Challenge Official Entry Form 2017

The undersigned hereby attests that he/she is 18 years of age or older, and is the responsible spokesperson for the individual(s) listed below on this form and herein referred to as The Act. The undersigned spokesperson further attests that The Act meets the Eligibility requirements included in the Official Sydney Blues Society Guidelines and Entry Form.

It is further agreed by the spokesperson that he/she and each member of The Act do hereby accept full responsibility for all taxes and restrictions relating to contest prizes received by The Act, further, each member of The Act, listed, here within permits the Sydney Blues Society and The Blues Foundation, Memphis TN, USA, the right to make use of his/her/their names, voices, pictures, visages and other likenesses of The Act for purpose of advertising, publishing and promoting the Sydney Blues Society and the International Blues Challenge through media, including entertainment and music syndicated radio, film and/or television shows presented or produced by the Sydney Blues Society or the Blues Foundation USA Inc. or its partners or assigns.

In addition, the spokesperson and each member of The Act hereby agrees that the Sydney Blues Society or The Blues Foundation USA Inc. will retain total ownership of the program(s), the right to edit the program(s), the right to broadcast the program(s), the right to copyright the program(s) and the right to license others to use these rights.

The undersigned spokesperson, hereby acknowledge that each member of The Act is knowledgeable of and agrees to abide by the terms of the Official Sydney Blues Society Guidelines and the Entry Form, as set forth by The Sydney Blues Society.

Spokesperson's Name _____

Name of the Act _____

Number of people in the act _____

Names _____

Instruments played by people in the Act _____

Spokesperson's Day phone _____ Best Time to Call _____

Night phone _____ Mobile phone _____

Fax _____ Other Contact _____

Email Address _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Alternate Contact _____ Alternate Phone _____

I have read and understand the Official Sydney Blues Society Rules for the Sydney Blues Challenge and declare that The Act meets the eligibility criteria and agrees to abide by all the terms set out in this document.

All band members need to sign the form below.

Act Spokesperson

Signed _____ Date _____

Act Member

Signed _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Act Member

Signed _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Act Member

Signed _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Act Member

Signed _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Act Member

Signed _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Act Member

Signed _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Act Member

Signed _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Act Member

Signed _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

**I / we have paid the entry fee via cheque / money order /
electronic transfer**
Please circle your payment method