

Adelaide Roots and Blues Association Inc. ABN 65 490 592 207

Memphis Blues Challenge 2016

The aim of the ARBA Memphis Blues Challenge is to find the best possible blues acts to represent ARBA, South Australia and Australia in Memphis Tennessee, at the International Blues Challenge (IBC) each year.

The ARBA Memphis Blues Challenge 2016 has two categories: "Band" and "Solo/Duo". The winners of each category will represent ARBA, South Australia and Australia at the 2017 International Blues Challenge in Memphis.

The ARBA Memphis Blues Challenge will be held in June 2016 as follows:

ARBA 2016 MEMPHIS BLUES CHALLENGE HEATS AND FINAL

Heat 1: Friday 17th June at The Semaphore Workers Club
Heat 2: Sunday 19th June at The Semaphore Workers Club
Heat 3: Friday 24th June at The Semaphore Workers Club
FINAL: Sunday 26th June at The Semaphore Workers Club

- The number of heats may be varied at the discretion of ARBA, depending upon the amount of acts that enter.
- The winning band and solo/duo act from each heat will progress to the ARBA Memphis Blues Challenge Final.

ARBA 2016 INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE FUND RAISER

The winning band and solo/duo acts will be expected to perform at a fundraiser to be held on the evening of Saturday 6th August, 2016.

BLUES FOUNDATION 2017 INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE

The 2017 International Blues Challenge will be held in Memphis Tennessee, USA, from 31st January to 4th February, 2017.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- If you enter this competition it is imperative that you ensure your act is available to appear on all of the above dates. Acts will be advised of the date of their heat in early April 2016. For logistical reasons, the heat date will not be changed for any act.
- ARBA will only assist one band and one solo/duo act to compete at the IBC in Memphis in 2017.
- ARBA conducts the Memphis Blues Challenge in line with the Rules of the IBC and is also able to impose additional eligibility restrictions. ARBA is responsible for undertaking the registration requirements of the Memphis Blues Challenge winners with the Blues Foundation for the IBC.
- ARBA reserves the right to use any contestant's name, music, voices, pictures, videos and other likeness for the purpose of advertising, publishing and promoting the Memphis Blues Challenge or for use by the Blues Foundation for the IBC.
- The ARBA Committee has the right to dismiss acts for not complying with the rules of the Memphis Blues Challenge and for bad behaviour before, during or after this contest. This behaviour may include drunkenness or other forms of intoxication. The ARBA Committee's decision will be final—no correspondence will be entered into.
- Memphis Blues Challenge and International Blues Challenge Rules are subject to change in conjunction with the Blues Foundation. ARBA has the right to intervene or change any of the rules of the Memphis Blues Challenge.
- For the purposes of the ARBA Memphis Blues Challenge, a "Band" is 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.

- For the purposes of the ARBA Memphis Blues Challenge, a “Solo/Duo” is 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.
- An individual musician may not compete in more than one act in any capacity. To remove doubt, an individual musician may not compete in both the band category and the solo/duo category.

HEATS AND FINALS

- All competing acts must be prepared to attend the ARBA Memphis Blues Challenge at their cost and remain at the venue for the duration of their heat and final (if applicable). All competing acts must be available to perform on the dates of any of the heats, the final, the fundraiser and the 2017 IBC. Acts will be advised of the date of their heat in early April 2016.
- Entrants must be available to take the stage when it is their turn to compete. Entrants are advised that the schedule for the heats or final may run early or late. The schedule may change if an act is unable to perform. For example, if any act scheduled for a heat or the final is unable to perform, the performance start time of any remaining acts would be brought forward so as to ensure there is no unscheduled break in the program. Any act unable to perform at the required time will be subject to point deductions or disqualification, at the discretion of the time keeper, in consultation with ARBA office bearers who are present. It is therefore recommended that competing acts arrive at the beginning of each heat or final in which they are competing.
- It is expected that members of competing acts will remain at the venue after their performance in a heat or final, until the announcement of the winners has been made.
- The scheduled performance start time for each act in heats will be determined by a draw made by ARBA in April 2016. The running order of the final will be determined by coin toss on the day of the final.
- Set lengths will be 25 minutes (Heats) or 30 minutes (Final). Set lengths are subject to change depending upon the number of acts competing. Acts will lose points for playing over time; points are not deducted for running under time. A changeover time of 15 minutes is allowed between acts.
- A backline will be provided for the heats and for the final. Further information regarding this will be provided to the competing acts prior to the competition
- Substitution of musicians is not allowed. The musicians who play for an act in the final must be the same musicians who played for that act in their heat. The musicians who play for an act in the heat and the final will be the musicians who go to Memphis. Immediate disqualification will apply if substitution takes place. In extreme circumstances of sickness or duress the ARBA Committee will review a request for change to the act going to Memphis. The ARBA decision on the matter will be final.
- Independent judges will judge the heats and final (a judge who has judged a heat will not judge the final). Scores will remain final. No correspondence will be entered into. Acts are permitted access to their own score sheets (these will be emailed, after the day of the heat or final, upon request) but will not be permitted access to the score sheets of any other act.

SCORING

The judges will score in exactly the same way as scoring is done at the IBC in Memphis. The judges will allocate a score out of 10 to each act in the following categories:

1. **Blues Content: EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.** After all, this is a Blues contest. Acts should pick material carefully. The judges 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.") Everyone has his or her own interpretation of what is and is not Blues. Thus, any given judging panel will include members with varying opinions of blues.
2. **Instrumental Talent:** This category is self-explanatory - the act's instrumental skill.
3. **Vocal Talent:** This category is self-explanatory – the act's vocal skill.
4. **Originality:** Original compositions are encouraged. Cover tunes are allowed but playing the original rendition lick by lick is discouraged, will not be looked upon favourably by the judges, and will be reflected in scoring.
5. **Stage Presence:** This category takes in the act's dress - if they are performing as a "sellable" act, and the extent to which the act performs to the audience.

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. An ACT will be 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.

In the unlikely event of a tie for first place in an ARBA Memphis Blues Challenge heat or final, the judges will vote to decide which of the acts who are tied for first place will be the winner.

ENTRY

Bios, photos and completed entry forms are now being accepted from eligible acts. ARBA reserves the right to accept or refuse an entry.

ELIGIBILITY

The ARBA Memphis Blues Challenge is open to any blues act meeting the criteria below:

- All members of the Act must be 18 years old or over.
- All members of the Act must be a permanent resident of South Australia.
- An individual musician may not compete in more than one act in any capacity.
- To remove doubt, an individual musician may not compete in both the band category and the solo/duo category.
- Acts who have previously won first prize at the IBC are ineligible.
- All entrants must be or become financial members of ARBA by the entry date on the entry form and must be financial up to and after the IBC date. Membership forms can be downloaded from our website:
http://www.adelaiderootsandblues.org/uploads/4/2/2/5/42250033/arbamembershipform2014_1up.pdf

ENTRY APPLICATIONS

Memphis Blues Challenge entries must be accompanied by the following:

- Entry Fee of \$50 for each member of the Band or Solo/Duo act.
- Completed Memphis Blues Challenge application form (see below).
- A digital jpg photo of the artist/s of at least 300dpi.
- A brief bio (200 words in Word format) is to accompany the application either by email, USB stick, or CD.
- Links to act website, Facebook page etc.

Entries will not be accepted if any one of these items is not supplied with the application.

MEMPHIS BLUES CHALLENGE WINNER'S PRIZE

The prize for the ARBA Memphis Blues Challenge winners is to represent ARBA, South Australia and Australia in the International Blues Challenge (IBC) held in Memphis Tennessee, USA, 31st January - 4th February, 2017.

The winning acts are considered representatives of ARBA at the IBC and are obligated under their ARBA membership to act in a responsible manner.

All funds raised by ARBA related to the Memphis Blues Challenge act entry fees, door cover charges, raffles and sponsorship etc. will be spent as follows:

1. To pay for an advertisement promoting ARBA and our two competing acts in the Blues Foundation IBC program book.
2. To pay for airfares and accommodation costs of the musicians who will represent ARBA at the 2017 IBC. If there is a shortfall in the amount of funds raised for this purpose, the available money will be evenly divided amongst the competing musicians. The competing musicians (with assistance from ARBA) will be responsible for covering any deficit.
3. If there are additional funds available once airfares and accommodation costs have been paid, the ARBA committee may decide to pay each musician a reasonable allowance to cover IBC related costs such as food, transfers etc.
4. Should there be any remaining funds after costs relating to points 1, 2 and 3 have been paid, these funds will carry over into the fund for the 2017 ARBA Memphis Blues Challenge.

Any funds provided by ARBA to the winning acts are expressly for the use of paying for travel and accommodation costs related to the 2017 IBC and not for any other purpose.

CONTACT

Further information can be obtained from ARBA President Mick Young: PH 0419 153 439 or email memphisblueschallenge@arba.net.au

LINKS

ARBA website: <http://www.adelaiderootsandblues.org/>

ARBA Memphis Blues Challenge: <http://www.adelaiderootsandblues.org/memphis-blues.html>

ARBA membership application form:

http://www.adelaiderootsandblues.org/uploads/4/2/2/5/42250033/arbamembershipform2014_1up.pdf

Blues Foundation (Memphis): <http://www.blues.org/>

International Blues Challenge (IBC) <http://www.blues.org/international-blues-challenge/>

IBC Official Rules: <http://www.blues.org/international-blues-challenge/official-rules/>

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ARBA Memphis Blues Challenge 2015 Entry Form

The undersigned hereby attests that he/she is 18 years of age or older, and is the responsible spokesperson for the individual(s) listed on this form and identified by real or stage name, and herein referred to as The Act. The undersigned spokesperson hereby acknowledges that each member of The Act is knowledgeable of, and agrees to abide by, the terms of the Rules of the Memphis Blues Challenge and this document, as set forth by ARBA Inc.

It is agreed by the spokesperson that he/she and each member of the act, do hereby exempt from all liability, the Adelaide Roots and Blues Association and all persons, organisations and companies that are directly or indirectly associated with the Memphis Blues Challenge.

It is further agreed by the spokesperson that he/she and each member of the Act permits ARBA, the right to make use of his/her names, music, voices, pictures, visages and other likenesses of the act for the purpose of advertising, publishing and promotion of Memphis Blues Challenge through media, including entertainment and music syndicated radio, film and/or television shows presented or produced by ARBA or its partners, successors or assignees. In addition, the spokesperson and each member of the act agrees that ARBA will retain ownership of the event artwork, the right to edit the artwork, the right to broadcast the Memphis Blues Challenge contest (and to copyright the artwork) and the right to license others to use these rights.

SPOKESPERSONS DETAILS:

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Email: _____

ACT DETAILS:

Name of Band or Solo/Duo act _____ Number of members of Act _____

Names of members of Act

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

5. _____ 6. _____

Website of Act: _____

Spokesperson to sign here once the terms set out in this document have been agreed to, and shown to each member of the act.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Continued next page)

ALTERNATIVE CONTACT (not applicable for solo acts):

Alternate Contact: _____

Alternate Email Address: _____

Alternate Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

PAYMENT DETAILS:

Entry fee to be paid (\$50 multiplied by number of musicians in Act) \$_____

Payment options:

1. Pay by EFT:

ARBA Account: People's Choice Credit Union **BSB: 805 050 Account number: 102105801**

IMPORTANT: Include act name in description when completing EFT transfer.

OR

2. Enclose cheque or money order (do not post cash).

Please indicate payment method chosen (also provide date of EFT transfer if applicable): _____

Email this application: memphisblueschallenge@arba.net.au

Post this application:

ARBA President

Mick Young

PO BOX 457 Unley SA, 5061

Closing date: 31st March 2016.

Questions?

Need further information?

Difficulties completing or lodging this form?

Contact ARBA President Mick Young. Phone: 0419 153 439 Email: memphisblueschallenge@arba.net.au

Have you?

- **Paid Entry Fee** of \$50 for each member of act?
- Included a completed Memphis Blues Challenge **application form**?
- Provided **digital jpg** photo of the act of at least 300dpi by email, USB or CD?
- **Provided a brief bio (200 words maximum in Word format)** by email, UBS or CD?
- Provided links to website, Facebook page etc