



International Blues Challenge (IBC) Competition 2023

READ THIS EMAIL IN IT'S ENTIRETY AND SEND TO EVERY MEMBER OF YOUR BAND

Thank you for your interest in competing in the 2023 International Blues Challenge (IBC) for representing the Fraser Valley Blues Society (FVBS) in Memphis, TN from January 16-20, 2024. We look forward to seeing your act perform. If we receive more than four (4) entrants in a category, we will revert to an elimination round described below. The final competition is on Sunday, June 25 at Coolrunnings on the Matsqui Flats (by the Mission bridge). This competition is open to any musician in British Columbia.

Every person playing must read this notice. Ignorance is not a defense. It is your responsibility to adhere to the rules.

To register for the FVBS International Blues Challenge:

- 1) **Fill out the registration form**, found on our website (<https://FVBlues.com>) or request by email (<mailto:info@fraservalleybluessociety.com>). Please ensure your information is accurate (matches each musician's passport information) as it is used for submitting your band info to the Blues Foundation.
- 2) **Submit three (3) songs in MP3 format** via email to info@fraservalleybluessociety.com, or alternatively, email a download link where we can retrieve the songs. (If more than 3 songs exist in the download area, identify the 3 files you would like us to use).
- 3) **To help cover the cost of holding the competition and provide financial assistance to the musicians going to Memphis:**
 - a) **Entry fee** is \$30 for bands, \$20 for duo acts & \$10 for solo acts.
 - b) **Have a current Band/Musician Membership to our Blues Society.** Band memberships are just \$20 a year. Our website has a Band Page featuring information on the musicians and bands with a membership. We often get asked to recommend a live act for people to hire.

Visit our online store to submit your entry fee & purchase a membership: <https://fvbs.square.siteup>

Important Dates: Application Deadline – June 2, 2023

Round 1 Results Notification – June 10, 2023

In Person Competition – Sunday, June 25, 2023

All Band Members Must be Available on Sun., June 25 and for travel & competing in Memphis from Jan. 16-20, 2024

Round 1 – Elimination Round (if necessary)

The judges will use their ears only, in a random listening format, to help select the three (3-4) best in each category for Solo/Duo and Band, to advance to performing live in the final competition.

- Additional details will follow if we must use an elimination process.

Round 2 – The Live Competition

Rules for every performance and performer (as set by the Blues Foundation <https://blues.org/ibc-rules-guidelines-local-affiliate-challenges/>):

- **When checking in, names must match your registration. ID is required.** No substitutions without pre-approval. Everything must match your application.
- **Sets will be no more than 25 minutes and no less than 22 minutes.** **Penalty points given for going over or under** these stipulated times. Practice your playing times. A timekeeper lets you know when there is 3, 2 & 1 min. left.
- There is a maximum **5 min. set up time.** Minimal amplifier change outs please. If you must use your own amp, pedals, etc. you must be quick. **You will be assessed penalty points for taking longer.**
- We provide backline, drum kit, microphones, guitar and bass amps. **Practice getting your gear set-up and removed quickly** to avoid taking longer. (There is also a maximum 5 min. dismantle timeframe after each set.)
- Judging Criteria: **Blues Content, Vocals, Originality, Talent & Stage Presence** (this is important info & is set out by the Blues Organization who puts on the IBC's)
- All members of the act must be in attendance when the judging is announced. **Final Announcements are expected to happen between 5:00-6:00 pm.**

Live Competition Timelines:

Check-in is 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm on Sunday, June 25. (Tardiness will result in penalty points or disqualification.)
Be prepared to stay until 5:30 pm.

Order of performance is by random draw & we will post time slots on the day of the event, at the event. You are responsible to be ready to perform when called. No one will chase you down if you are not there when it's your turn to go on stage.

Important Note: All band members must be in the venue for the whole competition & for final announcements.

After the Competition:

The trip to Memphis, TN is an exciting one. The people you meet, the experiences you have, creates memories you will remember years later.

Flights, accommodation, meals and refreshments can be expensive. Our Society wants you to have as enjoyable an experience as possible. Financially what we've done in years past is provided enough funds to cover airfare and

accommodation. We make no promises but that is our goal. The way we do that is by holding at least one fundraising event between Sept. – Jan. The winners of our International Blues Challenge are expected to perform at that event. The date of any fundraising events is always done collaboratively.

Also explore grants and funding sources available to musicians, to help offset the cost of the trip. We will assist as much as possible.

While in Memphis, be prepared to play many different stages. There is the Crazy Canuck Showcase, the Pacific Western Showcase, the International Showcase (usually on opening night). We will help get as many opportunities to play around Memphis as possible. If you commit to play a stage, you MUST do so.

Reach out to other musicians, blues societies, promoters and Blues Foundation staff, and those in the music industry to create opportunities for yourselves.

This event is super fun, creates lasting friendships and connections! We wish you the best of luck and remember to enjoy the ride, not just the win.

Cheers from the Fraser Valley Blues Society Board of Directors

Cora Price's Cell - 604-217-2259

<http://FVBlues.com>