



**THE PBS 20th Anniversary
2010 ARIZONA BLUES SHOWDOWN
SEMI-FINALS - Sunday October 17th, 2010
PBS FINALS - Sunday October 24th, 2010**

An Official Preliminary to the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, February 1st – 5th, 2011

1. Who can enter?

The only artists who are deemed ineligible for the Phoenix Blues Society's Arizona Blues Showdown are artists who have been nominated for a Blues Music Award—whose name has appeared on a final Blues Music Award ballot - in the 30-year history of the Blues Music Awards (and formerly, the W.C. Handy Awards). All other musicians who have had peripheral and/or professional contact through performance with a Blues Music Award nominee, including but not limited to, touring band members and studio musicians, are deemed eligible for the Arizona Blues Showdown and the IBC.

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.

2. How does PBS Arizona Blues Showdown winner enter the 2010 IBC?

The winner of the Arizona Blues Showdown will be given an IBC registration code by PBS. The winner will then have until November 24, 2010 to complete the online registration process.

3. Scoring Criteria - The Phoenix Blues Society follows The Blues Foundation scoring criteria in our Arizona Blues Showdown competition. The Blues Foundation included a new judging category last year for Vocals. The Categories are: Talent, Vocals, Blues Content, Stage Presence and Originality.

A. Blues Content: Everyone has their own interpretation of what is and is not 'Blues'. Thus, any given judge panel will include members with varying opinions of Blues, and covering the spectrum of Blues whenever possible, from the most traditional to soul/blues and rock/blues. Bands should pick material carefully.

At the IBC semi-finals and finals, the judges will be 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, and will not be looked upon favorably by the judges.

E. Stage Presence: Over the years, the quality of talent has risen so dramatically that this is no longer considered 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, each, 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.**

Again, the weighted multipliers will be BLUES CONTENT (x4); TALENT (x3); VOCALS (x3); ORIGINALITY (x2); and STAGE PRESENCE (x2).

Penalty Points: A Band is penalized one point from its Weighted Score for each ten seconds that it runs overtime. There is no penalty for using less than the allotted time.

4. Act Check-in – All acts must check-in with the Showdown coordinator upon arrival at the venue. The Showdown coordinator is Cindy Parker (cell 602-821-4239, or cindyparker2@q.com).

The **Semi-finals are on Sunday October 17th, 2010**, and the **Finals are Sunday October 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 no less than 45 minutes before your scheduled performance time.

5. 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.

6. Staging and Equipment - PBS will provide a basic backline and a full PA sound system. The provided stage backline will include a) the PBS drum kit with snare drum, cymbals and kick pedal, b) a bass amp, c) at least one guitar amp and d) mics and stands. Drummers may bring their own cymbals, kick pedals, snare and throne, and Harmonica players who use an amp should bring their own harp amp. Keyboard players need to bring their own keyboards, keyboard amps and stands. Effects (pedals, racks, etc.) and other auxiliary equipment are permitted. PBS will notify competitors of the actual provided backline equipment for the competition.

Musicians must include on the PBS Showdown application a detailed and accurate Stage Plot that indicates any additional or special equipment they are bringing to the competition. Note: Please bring a DI if you use one.