

**The Department of Entertainment Industry  
& The Music Preservation Society, Inc.  
Present**

**The Third Annual  
Shoals Blues Challenge**

The third annual ShoalsBlues Challenge will be Saturday, July 29th at The Mane Room, 310 North Pine Street. The challenge is a judged showcase and competition of blues bands and solo/duo blues artists in which competitors take the stage for a 20-minute set and will be penalized for going over the allotted time. The acts are judged based on an established set of criteria included in this packet. The winners are expected to compete in the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN in January, 2018. The winners will receive a stipend to assist with the costs of attending the finals in Memphis. (\$1500 band and \$750 solos/duo).

Backline is provided in the form of high quality drum kit, bass amp, guitar amp and keyboard with amp.

For application visit [www.una.edu/maneroom](http://www.una.edu/maneroom)

**No Application Fee**

**Eligibility:**

The Shoals Blues Challenge is open to bands, and solo/duo artists from the region.

**Judging and Scoring:**

Acts will play a 20-minute set. A timekeeper will give a one minute and a 30 second warning, there is a penalty for going over the time limit. All acts will be judged in five categories. Each category will be scored on a scale of 1-10. The categories are as follows:

1. Blues Content
2. Originality
3. Vocal Talent
4. Instrumental Talent
5. Stage Presence.

Below are the scoring criteria directly from The Blues Foundation's website; we follow in their footsteps to make our competition as close to their model as possible.

1. Blues Content: Everyone has his or her own interpretation of what is and is not Blues. Thus, any given five-judge panel will include members with varying opinions of Blues, covering the spectrum of Blues whenever possible, from the most traditional to soul/blues and rock/blues. Bands should pick material carefully. At the Memphis semi-finals and finals, the judges are Blues professionals, not a bar crowd. This is a blues competition and we want the best blues act to come out on top. An act may score high in talent but not have much blues content.

2. 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.

3. Vocals: The act's vocal skills.

4. Instrumental Talent: The act's instrumental skills.

5. Stage Presence: 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" an act may be.

To reflect the relative importance of each category in the success of an act, the score in each category is weighted. Raw scores for Blues Content are multiplied by four; Originality by three; and Vocals, Instrumental Talent and Stage Presence by two.

The total in each category represents the Weighted Score for that category. The total possible weighted score is 130 for each judge.

Penalty Points: A band is penalized one point from its Total Weighted Score (see below) for each ten seconds that it runs overtime. There is no penalty for using less than the allotted time. At the producing organization's discretion, a policy of penalty for excessive time loading-in and out will also be applied. Bands must have one member present and on time for the band meeting prior to the event. Penalty points will be assessed if you are late.

## SCORING SYSTEM FOR JUDGES

1. All categories and weightings are as previously stated.

2. Each judge will indicate his or her Raw Score (a whole number between 1 and 10) in each category and turn that information over to the scorekeeper.

*1-3: Typical of a beginning blues band.*

*4-5: Typical of a local weekend band.*

*6-7: Typical of an advanced local band but not yet ready to headline a major blues club.*

*8-9: Typical of the quality of blues artists who headline major clubs.*

*10: Typical of those who play the main stage at major festivals such as Chicago or Arkansas Blues and Heritage.*

3. The scorekeeper will multiply the Raw Score in each category by the established multiplier to get each judge's Weighted Score in each category for each act.

4. The Weighted Scores from each category for an act are added together to determine the acts' Total Weighted Score' for each judge.

5. Any penalty points will then be deducted to obtain the act's Net Weighted Score for each judge.

It is at this point that we determine our winner. The act with the highest number of points wins the competition.