

# 2017 FAQ SHEET FOR LOWCOUNTRY BLUES CLUB'S



## THE ROAD TO MEMPHIS

### COMPETING ACTS

#### WHAT IS REQUIRED BEFORE I CAN OFFICIALLY COMPETE?

**In order to participate** - Each band and solo/duo member must be a member of the Lowcountry Blues Club to participate in The Road to Memphis, this is easy and inexpensive, just \$10 for the year, there are no other entrance fees. Applications can be found at [lowcountrybluesclub.org](http://lowcountrybluesclub.org), contacts are listed on the website or find a Board member at one of the jams (Board members are in attendance at all Lowcountry Blues Jams, just ask someone to point one of us out, we look forward to helping you!)

**The Deadline for registration is August 13, 2017.** Each band or duo/solo must completely fill out a Lowcountry Blues Club, The Road To Memphis registration form and turn in in to a Lowcountry Blues Club Board Member no later than August 13, 2017. Registration forms can be found online at [lowcountrybluesclub.org](http://lowcountrybluesclub.org) or seek out a Board member at one of the jams.

#### WHAT SHOULD WE BRING WITH US TO THE ROAD TO MEMPHIS? WHAT EQUIPMENT WILL BE PROVIDED?

- ! You will need your instruments! Please bring a DI if you use one.
- ! All backline equipment provided by The Lowcountry Blues Club will be high quality, professional gear that you should be familiar with.
- ! Midi and looping devices to enhance performances are not barred from the competition but are frowned on by the judges, as this competition is about LIVE music performance!

- ! **Drummers** will need to bring cymbals and a kick pedal. You may want to bring your snare, as well.
- ! **Harp players** are allowed to bring a harp amp, but this is not required as we will have a guitar amp available for use.
- ! **Keyboard players** may bring their own keys, but this is not required if, in advance you ask for iakeyboard to be provided (we will provide a keyboard if asked to do so)
- ! All other backline will be provided. PLEASE NOTE: The backline will be based upon your registration information! The use of pedals, stomp boxes and other auxiliary equipment is allowed. We will not allow you to use your own guitar/bass amp during the competition. Thank you in advance for NOT contacting The Lowcountry Blues Club to ask for an exception to this rule, as we will not allow any exceptions.

## WHERE WILL THE ROAD TO MEMPHIS COMPETING ACTS PERFORM?

All competing acts will play Sunday August 27,2017 at the Windjammer on the Isle of Palms as assigned by The Lowcountry Blues Club. We will be using a random formula to place alternating bands and solo/duo acts in the line-up. The entire competition will take place in one day using the same judges for all bands and/or solo/duos.

## WHAT SET LENGTH SHOULD I PREPARE FOR?

20 minutes

Note: There will be 10 minutes breaks between band and solo/duo performances; to give you time to set up before you begin your performance. You must set up within the 10 minutes to avoid penalties from the judges.

## WHAT CAN I EXPECT WHEN I AM COMPETING?

The Lowcountry Blues Club will provide volunteers at the Windjammer as follows:

- ! The COORDINATOR (CO) will be the contact for the venue and the venue's soundman. That CO will direct and manage the stage. Please remember, your relationship is with The Lowcountry Blues Club and it's representatives, not the venue or it's representatives.
- ! The TIME KEEPER (TK) will keep up with your performance set length. Your time begins when the act addresses the crowd or the first note is played, whichever comes first. The time stops when the last note is played or when the last word is spoken. Salutations and closing remarks count as part of your set time. The TK will operate the venue stopwatch and alert you when you have 2 MINUTES remaining. You will also be signaled at the 1 MINUTE mark and then again when TIME IS UP. Any act that runs over time will be penalized one point from the Total Weighted Score for every TEN SECONDS that it exceeds its set limit. There is no penalty for using less than the allotted time. Your venue

coordinator may also apply penalty points for excessive time loading-in and out, at his or her discretion.

- ! The JUDGES ASSISTANT (JA) is charged with assisting the judges, preparing the score sheets, maintaining the integrity of the scoring, and delivering the score sheets to the Lowcountry Blues Club Command Center for counting.
- ! A VENUE ASSISTANT (VA) will assist with stage duties. The event will provide a PA, sound engineer, mics and mic stands.

The Lowcountry Blues Club will provide backline based on information you provided on your registration form. Keys will be available to all acts that request them on their registration form. The Blues Foundation cannot guarantee equipment requested after registration.

## **WHEN SHOULD I ARRIVE ON THE DAY OF COMPETITION?**

**Day of competition-** Each competing act (both band and solo/duo) **must check-in between 11:30 am – 12:00 noon on Sunday, August 27, 2017 at The Windjammer, 1008 Ocean Blvd., Isle of Palms, SC 29451.** When you check-in you will receive information about approximate performance times. We will not release order of performances or performance times ahead of check-in.

Upon arrival, it is your responsibility to check in with the COORDINATOR (CO). Failing to check-in with the CO will automatically result in a 1 point deduction from your Total Weighted Score.

Performance times are only a guideline, and should not be considered exact. Competitions can and often do run ahead of schedule. As such, it is your responsibility to have at least one representative from your act in the venue at all times once the challenge begins, and that representative should be able to make contact with all members of the act at all times should they choose to leave the venue ahead of your performance. An act may be missing, someone could be sick, or we could be running ahead of schedule, so you should be prepared to go on stage ahead of your assigned time should Coordinator request that of your act. If you are not ready to perform when the CO calls you, you will have points deducted from your Total Weighted Score, or you could be disqualified, regardless of the time printed in the schedule.

## **HOW DOES THE LOWCOUNTRY BLUES CLUB SELECT JUDGES?**

Judges are industry professionals and blues fans with years of experience. Three different judges will evaluate you based on The Blues Foundation criteria. Three judges will evaluate each act with those scores determining who wins the competition. Scores will be tallied and the winners will be announced (within 30 minutes) after the last act has performed

## **MAY I SELL MY CDs WHILE I AM AT THE ROAD TO MEMPHIS?**

For Road to Memphis contestants only, The Lowcountry Blues Club will have volunteers on-site to assist you in selling your discs. CD sales will be available at a table in the Windjammer if you pre-arrange to have this service at the orientation August 13th.

We are accepting no more than 2 CD titles per act. If you would like to participate in our CD sales program, we suggest you bring with you up to 50 copies of your CD(s) to the Windjammer on the day of the competition. The Lowcountry Blues Club IS NOT responsible for any lost discs!

NOTE: You may not sell discs from or in front of the stage before or after your performance. If someone asks, you may step outside or to the back of the room to complete transactions. The most important act in any venue is the one that is on the stage!

We also ask that you not have anyone walking through the crowd selling your merchandise while you (or any other act) are on stage performing.

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**

Have fun! Take in everything that Lowcountry Blues Club and the Windjammer has to offer (The Windjammer has a great menu offering food and drinks! And maybe a walk on the beach to clear your head! It's going to be a great day!) The Lowcountry Blues Club Board of Directors are here to assist you. Feel free to contact us with your questions. We look forward to seeing you there!