

Road to Memphis



2025 FAQ SHEET FOR LOWCOUNTRY BLUES CONNECTION'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 Connection (LCBC) to participate in The Road To Memphis showcase. Join for just \$15 for the year, there are no other entrance fees. Applications can be found at lowcountrybluesconnection.org, find contacts on the website or find a Board member at one of the jams (Board members are in attendance at all Lowcountry Blues Connection's jams, just ask someone to point out of us out, we look forward to helping you!)

The Deadline for registration is APRIL 20TH, 2025. Each band or solo/duo must completely fill out a Lowcountry Blues Connection The Road To Memphis registration form and turn it in to a Board Member no later than **APRIL 20TH, 2025**. Registration forms can be found by emailing info@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 Connection will be high quality and 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 guitar amps available for use.
- **Keyboard players** may bring their own keys, but this is not required if, in advance, you ask for a keyboard 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, stopm boxes and other auxiliary equipment is allowed. We will not allow you to use your own bass/guitar amp during the competition. Thank you in advance for NOT contacting The Lowcountry Blues connection to ask for an exception to this rule as we will not allow them.

WHERE WILL THE ROAD TO MEMPHIS COMPETING ACTS PERFORM?

All competing acts will play Sunday May 4th beginning at Noon at The Palmetto Brewery, Charleston, SC as assigned by the LCBC. We will be using a random formula to place alternating bands and solo/duo acts in the lineup. 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 minute 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 LCBC will provide volunteers at The Palmetto Brewery 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 LCBC 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 LCBC 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 LCBC will provide backline based on information from your registration form. Keys will be available to all acts that request them on their registration form. The LCBC 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 at noon on Sunday May 4th at The Palmetto Brewery**, Charleston, SC. 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 LCBC SELECT JUDGES?

Judges are industry professionals and blues fans with years of experience. Three or 4 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 LCBC will have volunteers on-site to help you in selling your discs. A sales table will be available at the Venue.

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 Southern Roots on the day of the competition. The LCBC 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.

PHOTOS AND VIDEO

The LCBC reserves the right to use **for promotional purposes, but not for profit any** photograph/video taken at any event sponsored by the LCBC. The LCBC may use the photograph/video in publications or other media material produced, used or contracted by the LCBC including but not limited to: brochures, invitations, books, newspapers, magazines, television, websites, videos, etc. **By performing at an LCBC sponsored event, all artists consent to the LCBC's reservation of rights and it's use of all photo/video, as set forth above.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

Have fun! Take in everything that the Lowcountry Blues Connection and The Palmetto Brewery has to offer. The Lowcountry Blues Connection Board of Directors and the RTM staff are here to assist you. Feel free to contact us with your questions. We look forward to seeing you there.