



Edmonton Blues Society

Memphis Bound Blues Challenge

Backgrounder

About the Edmonton Blues Society

The Edmonton Blues Society is a non-profit society in Edmonton founded in 2006 by a group of volunteers with a focus on keeping the blues alive in the Edmonton area. The Society encourages and educates young blues musicians to keep the blues alive, and is 100% run by volunteer blues fans and/or musicians.

Memphis Bound Blues Challenge

EBS created the Memphis Bound Blues Challenge to showcase Edmonton and area blues talent to a greater community while providing an opportunity for musicians to receive concrete feedback on their skills, network with other musicians, and learn new skills and styles in the blues genre.

The competition awards one Solo/Duo act and one Band act to represent Alberta at the International Blues Challenge January 29-February 2, 2013 in Memphis, TN, USA.

This year we have expanded the boundaries of entrants to Red Deer north in Alberta to discover talent in a wider area and to bring awareness of this event and the opportunities it presents to musicians.

Memphis Bound Blues Challenge 2011

For our inaugural year, we had 3 entries for each of our two categories, Solo/Duo and Band.

The final competition in Edmonton was a great success – the venue was sold out, and people were being turned away. Even the adjudicators were amazed by the crowd, the energy and excitement! (Holger Petersen, Cam Hayden, Carroll Deen, Roger Levesque & Ron Casat).

2011 Winners:

1. Breezy Brian Gregg in the Solo/Duo Category
2. Jimmy and the Sleepers in the Band Category

Memphis: 226 acts from 16 countries, played in 575 competition performances over 4 nights in 21 venues before 5000+ people. In addition, Breezy Brian Gregg was one of 16 acts selected to perform in The International Showcase the night before competition. All Canadian acts performed to an over-capacity inaugural event, "The First Great Canadian Polar Bear Blues Showcase" for which the Canadian Consulate was a sponsor. The Sleepers were a crowd favourite at their venue. Both acts increased their fan base, got their names known to industry and festival people, had fun and learned a lot.

The competition is NOT about winning, it's about the experience, networking, learning and growing as musicians. Our acts did all of these and represented Edmonton proudly! We are pleased to have provided them this opportunity and proud of them!

About the International Blues Challenge

The 2013 International Blues Challenge will be the 29th year of Blues musicians from around the world competing for cash, prizes, and industry recognition. The Blues Foundation will present the 29th International Blues Challenge January 29-February 2, 2013 in Memphis, TN. The world's largest gathering of Blues acts represents an international search by The Blues Foundation and its Affiliated Organizations for the Blues Band and Solo/Duo Blues Act ready to take their act to the international stage. In 2012, 119 bands and 86 solo/duo acts entered, filling the clubs up and down Beale Street for the quarter-finals on Wednesday and Thursday, the semi-finals on Friday and the finals at the Orpheum Theater on Saturday. We will have at least that many in 2013.