

INTERNATIONAL MISSISSIPPI BLUES TRAIL CHALLENGE

Official Rules

I- Principle :

The Cahors Blues Festival is organizing a Challenge on July 16th and 17th 2018.

This challenge with international awards is meant for artists wishing to perform before a public and a jury of specialists, during the Cahors Blues Festival. It is open to french and foreign musicians entering directly or nominated by a production company, a booking agency or a record label meeting the following criteria :

- blues bands of up to five musicians.
- 8 Bands will be selected for the semi-final on July 16th.
- after the semi-final 4 bands will be selected by international judges for the final on July 17th .

II- Program :

Steps of the Challenge :

- 1 - Call for applications and registration
- 2 - Selection of eight finalists (by listening to titles on albums or the internet)
- 3 - Live 25 mn performance on the « Village du blues » stage .
- 4 - Live 30 mn performance of the 4 bands selected at the semi –final, on the main stage of the Festival followed by the awarding of several prizes by an international jury.

III-Registration :

The musicians wishing to compete must confirm their registration before **May 8th 2018** by using the Contact Challenge Form from the website. www.cahorsbluesfestival.com/challenge.html

The registration must include all the informations and the other required elements. (link or album)

The registration must be sent asap because the number of applications won't exceed 40 bands.

The final application must be received before the above date with :

- A detailed presentation of the band (PDF)
- **the filled in and signed adherence to the rules form.**

Any incomplete applications or applications sent after the closing date (08/05/2017) will be rejected.

All artists having applied will be informed by mail if they have been selected or not for the semi-final of the July 16th Challenge before May 20th 2018.

IV- Semi-Finalists and finalists selection :

The selection of the 8 semi-finalists will be made by the programming Committee of the Cahors Blues Festival after listening to the recordings sent by the applicants when they registered and will be published on the internet site of the Festival and in the press.

They will be asked for a photo and a short note which will be published on the site of the Festival and used for the special edition of the Challenge and Festival Program (several thousands of copies will be printed).

The 4 finalists will be selected immediately after the semi-final.

V- The different steps of the semi-final and final:

There will be a series of sets of 25 mn for each contestant. The first tune will be used for the sound- check (no more than 5 mn) and will not be judged by the jury.

The semi-final will be held on the Blues Village stage between 2 and 7PM on Monday July 16th 2018. (free admission for the public)

The final will be held on the main stage of the festival on July the 16th between 8.00 PM and 10.30PM followed by the concert of one of the main artists of the Festival.

VI- : Expenses :

Travelling and accommodation are covered by the Festival according to the following :

- one night accommodation on the day of the semi-final.(twin rooms)
- two meals for every artist on the day of the semi-final (to be taken in the Festival restaurant)

The travel costs participation by band will be :

- 200 euros for artists coming from France (except for those coming from Midi Pyrénées Languedoc Roussillon and the neighbouring departments)
- 300 euros for artists from European countries

-400 euros for artists from countries out of Europe

For the selected bands for the final,

- one night accommodation on the day of the final (twin rooms)
- two meals for every artist on the day of the final (to be taken in the Festival restaurant)
- There will be an increase of 300 euros by band for the travel cost participation.

NOTE : The expenses are only covered for the musicians and/or their sound engineer. Other people with the bands must pay for their rooms, breakfasts and meals at the festival special rate. Questions (if any) will be asked to the Festival Authorities.

VII- : Stage and equipment :

The festival will provide the backline, the same for all, and sound with a drum kit, bass amps, guitar amps, micro and a full professional sound-system, monitor and mains.

The musicians may bring other auxiliary equipment. Drummers should bring their own cymbals.

As already said, the first tune will be used as a sound check (not more than 5 mn) and will not be judged.

VIII- : The jury :

- the judges are Blues professionals (festival organizers, festival programmers, concert halls programmers, artistic directors, Festival partners) chosen by the artistic direction of the Festival.

-The scoring criteria will include vocal and instrumental skills, stage presence, talent as a live act.

The different awards will be announced just after the last concert of the final. The winners will be awarded international prizes by festivals and concert halls programmers and organizers from France and abroad including the Cahors Blues Festival.

The jury's decision will be final.

The organizer

CAHORS BLUES FESTIVAL

International Mississippi Blues Trail Challenge

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