

Race For A Place

Harvest Jam Band Contest

The sixth annual *Race For A Place Band Contest* will take place from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday November 19th during the Harvest Jam at the Marriot Minneapolis West Hotel. Ten groups will have a chance to compete to win a spot on the Saturday Main Stage of the 2012 Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Festival.



2009 Race Champions "SweetGrass"

The purpose of the contest is to:

- Provide an alternative method by which member groups can pursue a place at the MBOTMA Festival.
- Provide an alternative method for MBOTMA to select the best acts to appear at the MBOTMA Festival
- Educate bands and the general public about what characteristics and talents are needed for prospective bands to perform well and get more and better engagements of any kind.

Entry Eligibility

1. To be eligible for the contest entry bands must be acts that have not previously won the contest.
2. The Harvest Jam must be allowed to use the name of all contest entry bands for advertising purposes.
3. All groups accepted for entry must pay a \$35 entry fee and purchase their own general admission for band members.
4. All entry groups must be available and willing to fulfill the winning obligation of a Saturday main stage set during the next Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Festival, as well as provide a short performance at the Harvest Jam dinner.
5. Entries will be accepted on a first-come first-serve basis as their registration and payment is received. Final selection of bands for contest entry will be determined by the Harvest Jam Contest Coordinator.
6. Bands will choose their performance time from the remaining open scheduled times in the order their registration and payment was received.

Judging

1. Each group will be expected to provide a minimum 20 minute performance (a performance of less than 20 minutes or more than 25 minutes will result in a five point penalty). Each group will also be allowed up to 10 minutes of on-stage set-up time.
2. Judging will be performed by three judges who will score each group up to 100 points on the following criteria:
 - Playing in tune individually and together as a band (10).
 - Playing together and in time and starting and ending songs with each other (10).
 - Singing in tune and blending vocally (10).
 - Instrumental virtuosity (10).
 - Choice of Repertoire, original material, and original spin on old tunes (10).
 - Interaction with the audience, emcee work and connection to the audience (10).
 - Stage presence, showmanship, and energy (10).
 - Personal and performance appearance (10).
 - Would you hire them to represent MBOTMA at the Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Festival? (20)

Prizes

1. The group with the highest overall score will be declared the Harvest Jamboree Race For A Place Champions (in case of a tie the judges will vote for a winner). The top prize will be a Saturday Main Stage set at the next Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Festival with band compensation of \$1,000 (the performance fee will be paid upon completion of the winning group's fulfillment of the set) plus weekend festival admission for all band members and a one year band membership in MBOTMA.
2. The winning group will be invited to be recognized and/or perform during the post contest dinner banquet program.
3. The groups with the next highest scores will be declared the First Runner Up and the Second Runner Up. These groups will be invited to fulfill the winning obligation and receive the \$1,000 prize compensation should the winning band be unable or unwilling to do so.

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Harvest Jamboree Band Contest Entry Form

Name of Band: _____

Number of Band Members: _____

BAND LEADER:

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Contact Email: _____

I understand that the Harvest Jam may use the name of our band as a festival performer for promotional purposes. I certify that the band listed here is ready and able to fulfill the Saturday Main Stage slot at the next Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Festival. I understand the winning prize of \$1,000 will not be awarded until this obligation is fulfilled, and if the highest scoring band is unable or unwilling to fulfill it then the slot and compensation will go to the next highest scoring band that can and does fulfill it.

Band Leader Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please direct questions and inquiries to Jed Malischke at jed@minnesotabluegrass.org.
To enter the Race For A Place contest this entry form needs to be completed and mailed to Minnesota Bluegrass Race For A Place, PO Box 16408, Minneapolis MN 55416 along with a check payable to Minnesota Bluegrass for the \$35 entry fee.