



2019 Americana-Roots Band Contest Official Rules

Registration

1. The contest is limited to eight bands, registered on a first-come-first-served basis.
2. Register on-line on the Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Association (MBOTMA) website, minnesotabluegrass.org.
3. Bands must include a \$50 entry fee with the completed entry form. The entry fee will be refunded if the contest has filled by the time the entry form is received.
4. Bands must submit a Stage Plot & Tech Request form showing the number of microphones required and their position on the stage, and indicating whether a bass is to be plugged in. The form may be downloaded from minnesotabluegrass.org. Print, complete, and email a digital copy to vidyabluegrass@gmail.com.
- 5. The registration deadline is Monday, August 12, 2019. Registration will not be considered completed until the entry fee and the Stage Plot & Tech Request have been received.**

Bands

1. Must consist of three to six members.
2. The contest is limited to acoustic bands, playing Americana "Roots" music including bluegrass, old-time, newgrass, or related music.
3. Individuals may participate in only one band and may not participate in the Americana-Roots Duet Contest.

4. Members of MBOTMA's board of directors and of the competition planning committee are not eligible to participate in the competition.

5. No band is eligible which has won 1st place in this contest within the last three years (2016, 2017, 2018). This restriction applies to any band which has two or more members from the previous 1st place band.

Instruments

1. Electric instruments are not permitted, with the exception of bass. We will provide all mics, stands, cables, as well as a bass amp, if needed (Gallien-Kruger MB112-II 150 Watt 1x12). Contest rules prohibit any other amplifiers, D.I.s, or electronic instrumentation.

2. Individuals may play more than one instrument during their band's performance. However, each performer must carry his or her instrument(s) onto the stage in one trip. ~~Microphones will not be repositioned during a band's performance to accommodate changing instruments.*~~

Tech

1. Each band will be allowed a few minutes to set levels and check monitors. A professional sound crew will position microphones for each band member and monitor wedges according to the stage plot provided by the band.

2. Band members may choose to use separate microphones or to play around a single microphone. ~~Either method is permitted; neither method will affect scoring.*~~

Contest Logistics

1. Band members must arrive at the contest site by 10:30 am to check in. One band member will participate in the random drawing that will determine the order of band performance.

2. The contest will consist of two rounds. The three bands earning the highest scores in the preliminary round will advance to the championship round.

3. Bands will perform two numbers in the preliminary round. Bands selected as finalists will perform one or two numbers in the championship round, depending on time constraints.

4. Bands may introduce themselves and their songs by speaking into the microphone. Bands will be allowed up to four minutes to complete each song selection, including any introduction.

5. An official timekeeper will track the time of each performance. 30 points will be deducted from bands' total scores for each minute they go over the time limit.

6. No one other than contest officials may approach the judges at any time during the contest. It is strictly forbidden for contestants and audience members to speak to contest judges at any time before, during, or after the contest.

Scoring

1. Band Scoring Criteria:

- a. 10% Material selection and arrangement (difficulty, originality...)
- b. 35% Instrumental performance (rhythm, intonation, dynamics...)
- c. 35% Vocal performance (lead and harmony)
- d. 20% Stage presence and entertainment value.

2. Band Scoring Evaluation

- a. Three judges will assess and score each performance.
- b. Each judge may award up to 100 points for each song, for a total possible score of 300 points per song.
- c. After each band performance, judges will provide completed scorecards to the scorekeepers, who will tally the scores.
- d. Judges will score the preliminary and final round performances separately.
- e. In the event of a tie, preliminary and final round scores will be combined. If the tie is still not broken, the judges will determine the ranking.
- f. Judges' scores are final. Scores will not be released.

**Indicates change in rules since 2018 Contests.*