

THE BLUES FOUNDATION

2017 Blues Music Awards Submission Process

Music released between November 1, 2015 and October 31, 2016 is eligible for consideration for a 2017 Blues Music Award. There are three options for your CD to be included in the BMA submission process:

1. As soon as your music is released, send at least one copy of your CD to The Blues Foundation, 421 South Main, Memphis, TN 38103-4464. The earlier you do this the better. It informs The Blues Foundation staff that your CD has been released and allows us to log it for future BMA related communications. All music submitted this way will automatically be considered for BMA nomination.
2. Formally submit your release after the submission process opens on July 21st via our online service. There is no charge for this service, and upon receipt of your submission, your CD will be added to our master log for consideration by our anonymous nominators.
3. To guarantee that your music reaches our nominators' ears, complete the "Ship to Nominators" process when you submit via our online service. You will be required to ship 105 copies of your CD to The Blues Foundation and you will be charged a submission fee for this service, based upon when you complete this portion of the submission process:
 - July 21-August 15, 2016 - \$135 per submission
 - August 16- September 5, 2016 - \$155 per submission
 - September 6 - September 30, 2016 - \$180 per submission
 - October 1- October 24, 2016 - \$225 per submission

The submission process officially closes on October 24, 2016. Your discs MUST be received by The Blues Foundation no later than OCTOBER 24 to be forwarded to the BMA nominators.

To submit your music for consideration, you can go directly to this link:
<http://www.shopbluesfoundation.org/blues-music-award-submission/>

The Blues Music Awards Nomination Process

The Blues Foundation has enlisted the help of approximately 100 Blues Music Awards Nominators. These individuals are carefully-screened Blues experts, consisting of Blues radio programmers, print media representatives, retailers, educators, photographers, festival presenters, talent buyers, and other Blues aficionados who attend many live performances and actively listen to the majority of Blues recordings issued in any given year. The nominators are chosen from the Blues Foundation's membership, with a focus on geographical balance and extent of involvement within the Blues genre. Most are from the United States, but we currently also have nominators from Canada, Europe and Central America.

Beginning around November 28, Round 1 nominators are asked to make up to three selections in each of The Blues Music Awards 23 categories. Nominators may make selections in every category or only in those categories about which they feel most informed and knowledgeable. The Historical category is determined by a smaller select committee.

After Round 1 is completed, the Nomination Committee reviews the entries to ensure that nominations are in the correct category and meet the eligibility requirements. Generally, artists, songs, and albums receiving three or more nominations are submitted for Round 2 consideration.

To avoid potential conflicts, those with a vested interest in any song or artist are excluded from further involvement in the nomination process. Each Round 2 nominator is again asked to select up to three of the remaining releases or artists in each category. At the conclusion of Round 2, the entries are again reviewed for category accuracy and eligibility and the top five nominees per category are placed on the final ballot. In the case of a tie, more than five nominees may be on the ballot.

The final ballot is made available online by the last week of January and the voting by The Blues Foundation membership begins then and generally continues to March 1.