

# PODUNK BAND COMPETITION

The goal of the competition is to give bands looking to make the jump from a local or regional band to one of national recognition. It gives groups an opportunity to present to a wider audience and establish themselves as a band to be “watched and heard.” We believe that the winning band will be able to use the title of “Winner Podunk Band Competition” as a marketing tool for the band. The judges will spend ten minutes with each band at the conclusion of the competition to discuss strengths, weaknesses and areas needing improvement in a frank but supporting manner. We will accept only 4 bands to compete in the competition. This year bands will be given an opportunity to perform twice first as part of the competition following the rules below and then on the same day an open set of the bands choice. You may register by sending a demo, performance schedule for past 6 months, picture of the band and bio to Podunk Band Competition, 73 Thomas Dr, Manchester, CT 06040.

## Rules and Regulations

1. Each band will have a 30 minute time slot. That includes setup, performance time and equipment tear down. Each bands allowed time starts on the hour or half hour.
2. Each band will be responsible for keeping track of their allowed time. Points will be deducted for being on stage over the assigned time limit.
3. Please respect the fact that Podunk is a bluegrass festival and our main stage is a reflection of that tradition of music. Bands need to adhere to the bluegrass theme and style of music.
4. Recommended time limit: 3-5 minutes per song. You may perform as many songs as you like during your allotted time slot.
5. To showcase each bands range and abilities three style of song selections are required. 1. A slow (ballad) vocal song, 2. An instrumental song, 3. A fast vocal song. Bands will also be required to perform the winning song from the previous year’s songwriters’ competition as part of the set. This will be sent electronically for all bands to learn. Interpretation of the song is up to each band.
6. All instruments used must be acoustical. Electrical amplification of instruments is prohibited except for bass.
7. No drum sets or standing percussion is allowed.
8. Appropriate sound will be provided to each participating band.
9. Any band member who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or any other controlled substance will result in band disqualification.
10. After you have been notified of your acceptance, Podunk must be notified in advance of any personnel changes.
11. Bands entering the contest may not have any common members in the same year.
12. Bands may consist of 3-7 members.
13. The band competition is on the Thursday of the Festival. Bands may setup for merchandise sales in an area where tables are provided under cover.
14. Each band participating in the band competition receives \$300 and the winning band receives a sponsorship from Telefunken Microphone including product and studio recording time at their South Windsor CT facility. To learn more visit the Telefunken website <http://www.telefunken-elektroakustik.com/>.
15. Bands wishing to perform on the workshop stage on Friday or Saturday may inquire about availability.
16. The Podunk Band Competition is more than just another performance. Many of the bands participating have maintained long term relationships with the festival and have realized new opportunities for the advancement of the band.

## **Grand Prize**

In addition to prize money, the Champion band will receive a pair of Telefunken M60 FET acoustic instrument microphones (or similar) valued at \$1,200 and a spot on the Main Stage on Friday or Saturday at the 2018 Podunk Bluegrass Festival.

## **Prize Money:**

- All bands will receive a \$300 cash prize

## **Fan Favorite**

Audience members will vote for their favorite band. Votes will be sold for \$1.00 a piece and the audience will place tickets in the bucket of the band of their choice. Audience members will be able to cast votes up to 20 minutes after the last band has performed. After that the ballot boxes will be removed and votes tallied. The band that has the most tickets in their bucket will be declared the winning band. Proceeds from the buckets will go towards the Podunk Kids' Academy. Half of the winning bands money will be given to the band. Band members are expected to be present for the presentation.

## **Judging**

We will have a qualified panel of judges. Each band will be provided feedback by the judges on their performance.

Tentative Judges may include: Ken Irwin, Rounder Records, Arnie Fleischer, Promoter Emelin Theatre in Mamaroneck, NY, Dave Dick, Performer and Owner of D String Guitar Repair and Darwin Davidson of "Bronzewound" Bluegrass, on WERU-FM 89.9 Blue Hill, Maine.

Judging will be based on the following categories:

1. Content - Appearance, Use of time, appropriate material.
2. Originality - Original material or interpretation of the works of others.
3. Musical Ability - Vocal/instrumental ability, tone, intonation and difficulty.
4. Stage Presence - Group communication, fluidity, audience appeal and entertainment value.
5. Overall Impression

## **Where To Park or Camp?**

All performing band members will be allowed to park on the grounds by entering Gate B of the Hebron Fairgrounds on Thursday. Camping will also be available for performing band members in tent or RV parking without hookups for those wishing to come early and stay on the festival grounds. Guests of band members will be allowed to park or camp at regular ticket prices. Spouses or significant others may camp for \$50 for the weekend.

## **Need More Information?**

Visit [www.podunkbluegrass.com](http://www.podunkbluegrass.com) or email [bandcomp@podunkbluegrass.com](mailto:bandcomp@podunkbluegrass.com)

The Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival will celebrate its 21<sup>st</sup> year with an outstanding line-up. The festival will run from Thursday, August 10 through Sunday, August 13, 2017.

# PODUNK BLUEGRASS BAND COMPETITION INFORMATIONAL SHEET

Please return this form to Jim Perry at 73 Thomas Dr, Manchester, CT 06040 or via e-mail at jamesmperry@cox.net.

Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address to send pre-festival material: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number at festival time: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of members in the band: \_\_\_\_\_

How long has this configuration of the band been playing together publicly? \_\_\_\_\_

We would like to camp on the festival grounds if selected: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

We would like a performance spot on our Workshop Stage if selected Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Day for workshop performance: Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_\_

Please print a list of band members first and last name for festival ID card.

First Name

Last Name

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I hereby submit our application to the Podunk Band Competition on behalf of the band listed above. I and the band members agree to adhere to the rules outlined and if selected will arrive by 3 PM on Thursday of the competition. Please provide a picture of the band with the application.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date