

# **The Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Contest**

## **Contestants must enter by May 1**

**Entry Fee: \$25.00 per song**

ALL FINALISTS WILL RECEIVE • Special Access Podunk credentials for the writer plus one additional person. • Listing and link on the Podunk Bluegrass website

### **PRIZES**

Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. All prizes will be awarded to name on entry form. Division of prizes among co-authors is responsibility of winners. Taxes are the responsibility of winners. Void where prohibited. All Federal, State and Local laws and regulations apply.

#### **First Prize**

A 10 minute performance on the Main Stage at Podunk on Saturday of the next Podunk Festival. Must include the song chosen as a winning entry song.

\$200, a 4 day Camping Ticket for 2 to the NextPodunk Bluegrass Festival, and a festival T-shirt.

The winning entry will be aired on Bluegrass Café at WHUS-FM with timing at the discretion of the DJ.

#### **Second Prize**

A 10 minute performance on the Main Stage at Podunk on Saturday of the next Podunk Bluegrass Festival. Must include the song chosen as their winning entry song

\$100 and a pair of Four Day General Admission tickets to the Next Podunk Bluegrass Festival

#### **Third Prize**

A 10 minute performance on the Main Stage at Podunk on Saturday of the next Podunk Bluegrass Festival. Must include the song chosen as their winning entry song

\$50 and a pair of General Admission Tickets good for any day of the Next Podunk Bluegrass Festival.

Following the festival, a list of the top three winners can be found at the Podunk web site.  
[podunkbluegrass.com](http://podunkbluegrass.com)

# Official Rules and Guidelines

## ELIGIBILITY

The Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Contest (PBSC) is open to those whose primary source of income (50% or more) is not derived from songwriting or publishing. Income from performing gigs is not songwriting income. Writers who have won First place for three consecutive years in this competition are restricted from entering again for the next five years following their most recent win. Co-writers are subject to the same eligibility requirements as the named entrant.

## BLUEGRASS GENRE GUIDELINES

Bluegrass is a style of acoustic music that originated in the 1940s when Bill Monroe, Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs combined elements of country/western, gospel and blues music with the British, Irish, and Scottish music of their Appalachian mountain heritage. It is played most commonly on the mandolin, fiddle, five-string banjo, six-string guitar, and upright bass, but the resonator guitar ("Dobro"), harmonica, and electric bass are also found in bluegrass. Percussion is not generally used, with the insistent rhythm being a result of the interplay of the stringed instruments. Bluegrass music is often called "that high lonesome sound" but it includes a wide range of lively instrumentals, sweet ballads in three-part harmony, soulful a capella gospel quartets and up-tempo love songs.

Some examples of the bluegrass genre include the music of the Stanley Brothers, Reno & Smiley, Jim & Jesse, and Jimmy Martin, the Osborne Brothers, the Dillards, the Seldom Scene, the New Grass Revival, and Hot Rize. Today the bluegrass genre is popular worldwide, and its stars include Ricky Skaggs, Alison Krauss & Union Station, the Del McCoury Band, Laurie Lewis, the Lonesome River Band, Blue Highway, and the Nashville Bluegrass Band.

## 3. HOW TO ENTER

### SUBMISSIONS BY MAIL:

Send the following with each entry:

- a) One completed entry form per song (photocopy acceptable).
- b) Entries may be submitted on CD or electronically as an mp3 file. Multiple entries on a single CD are acceptable.
- c) Release form (below) signed by all writers.
- d) Typed lyric sheet (Place writers name(s) at the bottom of the lyric sheet.
- e) Check or money order for \$25.00 (U.S. currency) for each entry, payable to Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival. Payment may be made through the Podunk Bluegrass Website under tickets and then Songwriters Tickets (check link on website songwriters page) or through PayPal. Do not send cash.

CD entry to be labeled with song title and writer's name(s). Lyric sheet to include writer name(s) at bottom of page to facilitate easy concealment from judging panel.

## **MAIL ENTRIES TO:**

The Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Contest, C/O Myrna Riquier, 123 Bedlam Road, Chaplin, CT 06235 or submit song in MP3 format and lyric sheet in .doc format by email to [bluegrassshowcase@gmail.com](mailto:bluegrassshowcase@gmail.com) Entries must be received by May 1. Email entries will be confirmed to the sender. Entries received after the deadline will not be considered.

## **Electronic Submissions**

Items to be attached to the email sent to [bluegrassshowcase@gmail.com](mailto:bluegrassshowcase@gmail.com)

- a) Signed copies of Contestant Entry form and the Release which are the last two pages of this document.
- b) Written lyrics to the song
- c) Song in mp3 format.

## **Payment instructions**

- a) Go to [podunkbluegrass.com](http://podunkbluegrass.com)
- b) Tickets
- c) Songwriters Tickets (check link on website songwriters page)
- d) or through PayPal

## **SONGWRITING ENTRIES**

All entries must be the original work of contestant. Contestant may enter as many songs as desired. Each song, however, constitutes a separate entry and must have its own entry form, lyric sheet, release, and recorded MP3 or CD submission. Check, money order or online payment must reflect the total number of songs submitted. All applicable U.S. copyright laws apply, and all rights to submitted material remain entirely with the copyright holder. PBSC acquires no rights to any works submitted. Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival is not responsible for late, lost, damaged, misdirected, insufficient postage, stolen, or misappropriated entries. Entry fees are non-refundable.

## **JUDGING**

Entries will be judged by music industry professionals from the Podunk Bluegrass Festival music community. All entries will be judged on originality, lyrics, melody and the song's overall craft. **Of major significance will be how closely the song meets the guidelines for bluegrass music.** (See "Bluegrass Guidelines" elsewhere in this memo) Recording and performance quality are not considered. All decisions by judges are final and not subject to inquiry or appeal. Finalists will be determined and notified by the week of July 3. Only finalists will be personally notified. The contest will not release judges' scores nor provide personal evaluations.

## **FINALISTS**

Writers of the top three songs will be invited to perform on the Main Stage at Podunk in Goshen, CT. Transportation to and from the festival and any other expenses are the responsibility of the finalist. Each finalist will receive up to two special access passes to the festival. **Any additional band members must purchase a ticket to enter the festival.** Co-writers will be treated as one writer for credentials and prizes. In the event of a tie among top-ranked entries, the one with the earliest postmarked registration date will be chosen. The 1<sup>st</sup> Place winning song will be performed by all bands entered in Next Year's Podunk Band Competition as a required song for their own competition.

## **9. INDEMNITY AND RELEASE**

Signature on entry form constitutes that the song submitted is an original work and releases The Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival Songwriting Contest, its judges, sponsors, and The Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival from all liability. Entry also constitutes permission to use winner's name and likeness for future advertising and publicity without compensation. By entering, entrants agree that they have no right to bring, and covenant not to bring any claim, action, or proceeding of any kind or nature whatsoever against PBMF, or any other sponsoring organization or judge in connection with this competition.

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### **Please Note:**

- Only entries submitted according to the rules will be considered.
- No deadline extensions. No exceptions.
- Submit individual CDs for each entry. The Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Contest does not acknowledge receipt of entries submitted. Only finalists will be notified personally of the results of first round judging
- The contest will not release judges' scores nor provide personal evaluations
- Writers of songs selected for the finals will perform them live at Podunk on Saturday.
- Mail or email entries accepted.

The Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival is a **non-profit organizations** dedicated to furthering the craft and appreciation of original and traditional bluegrass music.

## Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Contest Entry Form

**This form and a \$25 check must accompany each song entered .**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Country** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone ( )** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Song Title** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time** \_\_\_\_\_

**Co-Writer(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

Print, complete, and mail your entry to: The Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Contest, C/O Myrna Riquier, 123 Bedlam Road, Chaplin, CT 06235, or email to [bluegrassshowcase@gmail.com](mailto:bluegrassshowcase@gmail.com) Entry must be received by May 1.

I certify that I have read and understand the Official Rules of THE PODUNK BLUEGRASS SONGWRITING CONTEST, and I accept the terms and conditions of participation in this contest as stated in the official rules.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** If entrant is under 18 years of age, the signature of a parent of guardian is required

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

For more information: <http://podunkbluegrass.com/songwriters-competition/> or E-mail: [bluegrassshowcase@gmail.com](mailto:bluegrassshowcase@gmail.com)

## Release Form for the Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Competition

Song Title \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned writer(s) hereby give permission to the Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival (PBMF) to use this song in connection with the Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Contest and the PBMF as described in the Official Contest Rules of the Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Contest.

Writers retain complete copyright ownership and give permission to PBMF to use the composition as needed within the guidelines of the Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Contest. The writers waive any current and future payments for this use of the composition. Authorization of this use is non-exclusive. Writers retain all rights and may freely license use of the song to any other parties for any other uses at any time.

Writer(s) warrant that they have the right to authorize this use, and in so doing are not infringing on the copyrights or publishing rights of any person or entity not named in this release, and agree to be responsible for any restitution that may be due a third party as a result of knowingly or unknowingly misrepresenting the authority to grant this use.

Writer(s) agree to submit a non-refundable \$25 entry fee with their submission with the understanding that this does not guarantee receipt of any future tangible or intangible benefit. The final selection of winning songs for the competition is at the sole discretion of PBMF.

Primary e-mail address for contact regarding this submission \_\_\_\_\_

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Length of the track in minutes: seconds \_\_\_\_\_

Writer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Writer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Writer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed release, along with all other required entry materials should be** sent to: The Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Contest, C/O Myrna Riquier, 123 Bedlam Road, Chaplin, CT 06235 or email to [bluegrassshowcase@gmail.com](mailto:bluegrassshowcase@gmail.com)