

Race For A Place

Harvest Jamboree Band Contest

The second annual *Race For A Place Band Contest* will take place from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday October 27th during the new Harvest Jamboree at the Marriot Minneapolis West Hotel. Twelve groups will compete to win a spot on the Saturday Main Stage of the 2008 Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Festival.



Photo by Seth Evans

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 been contracted to perform on the main stage of the Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Festival over the most recent *four* years.
2. To be eligible for the contest entry bands must have a current band membership in MBOTMA at the time of entry.
3. The Harvest Jamboree must be allowed to use the name of all contest entry bands for advertising purposes.
4. All groups accepted for entry must pay a \$25 entry fee and *purchase their own general admission for band members*.
5. 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 Jamboree dinner.
6. Requests for entry must be made to MBOTMA by mail with payment included, and the final selection of bands for contest entry will be determined by the Contest Coordinator (Peggy Armstrong-Larson).
7. All entry bands must have a representative present for the performance time drawing at 9AM and be prepared to perform anytime between 10AM and 6PM on the day of the contest

Judging

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

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 \$800 (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.
2. The winning group will be invited to be recognized and/or perform during the post contest dinner banquet program.
2. 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 \$800 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 Jamboree 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 \$800 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 Peggy Armstrong-Larson at oneprettypeseggy@aol.com.

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 \$25 entry fee.