

INBMA SHOWCASE POLICY

NOV 2024

The Inland Bluegrass Music Association of the Spokane WA area is deeply grateful to any band willing to travel and perform their music to our appreciative audience. This policy statement sets forth our scheduling, time slots, compensation, and other details of an agreement we will send you when your group is selected to perform.

GOALS AND VALUES

The INBMA still retains the word BLUEGRASS in its title, yet our tent has grown large enough to accommodate other genres and styles. Our mission is still to provide opportunity to a band to perform before a live audience. We really like a hot bluegrass group with all the instruments and vocals, but we also welcome the singer-songwriter or a young student learning a new instrument. Since we get many requests from local and regional groups, we strive for a Showcase that features two groups who offer diversity and uniqueness. The ability to entertain is valued highly. The ultimate selection for a date will be our choice for meeting these goals.

BAND ACCEPTANCE STEPS

1. INBMA Call for Bands

This is a general solicitation for bands to get in touch with us with their status and availability. Emailed in August and December, your band representative will receive a general request for your band's availability on at least two acceptable dates within the Showcase calendar (October through May.)

2. INBMA Receipt of Application

When we hear from you, we will email a pdf form that acknowledges your application. We also request a current band bio and photo. These will be considered in the selection process. Later, if selected, a stage plot will be needed. It's possible your band will not get selected for a specific date, but we'll put you on a waiting list.

3. INBMA Confirmation to Perform

In no less than six weeks before the selected date your representative will receive a confirmation to perform. This details your performance time and date. It also serves as a non-binding contract between the INBMA and your band's representative. Should your group be unable to commit to that date, then we'll consider your second choice, and if necessary, include you on a waiting list.

BAND SELECTION CRITERIA

- Entertainment skills. We value a performer who can connect with an audience both visually and musically.
- Musicality skills. You need not be a pro to effectively perform your instrument.
- Unique blend of players. We value a group that has not already appeared in some other form.
- Originality of material and arrangements. Covers of other groups are fine, but we also value a band with its own sound, compositions, arrangements and presentation.
- Bio and photo. Before we can select your group for a Showcase, we must have information you provide about the actual group that will appear.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

- acoustic instruments are valued over electric ones
- a double bass and mandolin can define the beat as well as a drum kit
- lewd songs, coarse language, offensive dress has no place on the Showcase
- drugs and alcohol tend to degrade a band's performance, violates our agreement with the church, and is discouraged
- a group who entertains its audience is one that engages both visually and musically. Reliance on visual aids for lyrics and arrangements and other song details detracts from the entertainment value, yet we understand how it may be necessary.

LOCATION OF SHOWCASE

Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane

4340 West Whistalks Way

Spokane WA 99224

Daniel Gore, Showcase Coordinator 509-828-0924 danielcgore@msn.com

SHOWCASE SCHEDULING *by default, our Showcase will feature only two bands. Three bands will be exceptional.*

BAND 1, SOUND CHECK, JAMMING and INTRODUCTIONS

4:00 – 6:00 fast jamming in adjoining chapel, beginner and slow jam in the sanctuary

6:15 – 6:30 Opening greetings, band 1 sound check

6:30 – 7:20 Band 1 Performance (50 min)

BAND2, SOUND CHECK, RAFFLE and INTERMISSION

7:20 – 7:30 Intermission, Raffle

7:30 - 7:40 Band 2 sound check

7:40 – 8:30 BAND 2 Performance (50 min)

SOUND GEAR AND SETUP

The INBMA will provide the essential equipment to amplify your band's vocals and instruments. We all have individual needs and personal gear we like to use, including certain mics and DI cords, not to mention instrument stands, stools, pre-amps and so on.

Please bring anything like these items you may want or need for your show. If you don't there's no assurance we'll have it.

COMPENSATION FOR TRAVEL AND PERFORMANCE

At this time, the INBMA does not offer a cash compensation for a band's performance. We do make an allowance for bands that must travel a considerable distance. We will compensate bands \$50 for bands coming from 51-100 miles; \$100 for bands traveling over 100 miles. *It is incumbent on the traveling band to request this compensation before the Showcase event in order to meet approval and have a check prepared. Send this request to INBMA treasurer Jeff Renfrow at genairic@comcast.net*

SALE OF PRODUCT

There are no prohibitions on the sale of product by a band, such as CDs, tapes, or shirts.

TIP JAR

Because a band works hard to prepare and perform, not to mention haul its members and gear to the stage, at the very least a tip jar is one option for recouping some of its costs. Please bring your own and gussy it up a bit. Make sure you promote it and place it in some prominent location.