

## The Cleveland Blues Society Hall of Fame Purpose, Guidelines and Procedures

Since its inception in 2008, the Cleveland Blues Society (CBS) has inducted new members into the Cleveland Blues Society Hall of Fame (HOF) to recognize their historical contribution, impact and overall influence on blues music in the Cleveland/Northeast Ohio community.

The Cleveland Blues Society Hall of Fame award is a recognition of the artists, promoters, producers, venue owners and others in the Cleveland/Northeast Ohio blues community who have made blues music timeless through their performance, documentation, recording, media and passion for blues music throughout their lives and careers.

### **Purpose:**

- To document the history of Cleveland/Northeast Ohio area local Blues contributors.
- To enhance and celebrate the existing blues music environment.
- To honor those who have made significant contributions to blues music in the Cleveland/Northeast Ohio community.

### **Inductee Criteria: Primary criteria for induction to the CBS Hall of Fame:**

- Nominees must have the following qualifications:
  - Blues as their primary format or music style,
  - Have at least a 20-year history of a form of blues music participation.
  - Must have made a historical contribution that had an impact on blues music in the Cleveland/Northeast Ohio community.
  - Nominees are **not** required to be CBS members.
- Additional qualifications:
  - Nominees should have lived in the Cleveland/Northeast Ohio area for most of their lives or for at least a total of 20 years prior to being nominated for the CBS Hall of Fame.
  - Nominees for the CBS Hall of Fame, as an individual or a group, should have demonstrated accomplishments in the field of blues music within the Cleveland/Northeast Ohio community.
  - Regional, national and international accomplishments will also be considered when evaluating nominees.
  - Non-performers to include but not limited to, promoters, producers, song writers as well as recording and/or venue owners are eligible for induction 20 years after their first documented professional Blues Music activity.

### **Nominations and Submissions**

- All nominations will be accepted.
- No one may nominate themselves.
- Nominations can be submitted year-round, but only nominations received four (4) months prior to induction of the current year will be considered for the Induction Ceremony in that year.
- The completed nomination form may be submitted in hard copy or digital form. Submissions will be sent to the HOF Committee chair.
- Nomination forms must include the name and email address of the individual making the nomination.

## **The Hall of Fame Committee:**

- The Committee shall be comprised of volunteers up to six (6) members of CBS which includes at least one (1) CBS Board Member who shall be liaison to the CBS Board.
- The CBS President shall designate the HOF Chair.
- The Committee shall conduct its activities in accordance with the CBS Bylaws.
- In the event a Committee Member is nominated they may not participate in the voting process.
- In the event of a tie vote the CBS President will have the final vote.

## **Committee Duties**

- Create a list of possible nominations from the committee nominations and outside nominations.
- Verify nominee qualifications.
  - Obtain completed nomination forms. (biograph or autobiography of nominees)
  - Nominations will be discussed by the Committee at as many meetings as may be deemed necessary by the Committee Chair.
  - The Committee may seek advice or additional information from music professionals outside the Committee
- The Committee will recommend up to six (6) HOF nominees to the CBS Board. Living and one post. Should a special case arise, the committee may nominate an additional person with CBS Board approval.
- The Inductee Selection shall be conducted in a closed Committee/Board meeting and no public explanation of specific deliberations is required nor shall be given.
- Once the Board approves the nominees, the Committee Chair will contact the nominees to notify them and verify participation.
- The Committee Chair will prepare a press release announcing the results and send a congratulatory letter to the Inductees.
- It is the responsibility of the HOF Committee Chair to prepare the Award to be presented at the HOF Awards Ceremony.
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## **Voting Process**

- The induction of each nominee is determined by the CBS Board.
- The nominees , including presenters, for each year's ceremony are selected by the HOF committee.
- The nominations are then presented to the CBS board for final approval.

## **Presenters**

- Presenters for each nominee are selected by the HOF committee.
- Presenters must have a history with the nominees.
- Presenters may also take part in the musical portion of the HOF ceremony.

## **Inductee Program**

- A list of performances and time frames will be provided to all who are involved.
- A stage manager will be selected by the committee to facilitate the program.

- The program will be held at a facility large enough to accommodate the audience.
- A Blues host band selected by the HOF Committee will perform for an hour.
- The host band will provide backline (amps, drums,) which will be accessible to inductees, presenters and HOF previous inductees.
- The nominees will be inducted after the Host Band performance.
- A list of performances and time frames will be provided to all who are involved.
- CBS will provide the PA, monitors, microphones and stands and lighting.
- Performers may bring their own microphones.
- CBS will provide audio video recording of the event which will be available through the CBS website.
- Price of admission to be determined by the HOF committee. Presale and at door sales to be determined per event.
- Food and beverages are available for purchase with a cash bar.

**Annual Review of HOF Guidelines:**

- These guidelines shall be subject to an annual review by the Committee and/or CBS Board to ensure that the CBS-HOF voting process remains fair and consistent with the CBS Bylaws.