# Bluegrass Island Music Festival

# Band Competition

The Bluegrass Island Music Festival is looking for that next emerging bluegrass and/or Americana band. We want to hear from those up and coming bands who are looking for an opportunity to show us what you have.

**2024 submissions are now open!**

Bluegrass Island Music Festival is accepting submissions for anyone interested in competing. You will be required to submit a video entry beginning with something like this: We are *name of band* from *state* and this is our entry for the 2024 Bluegrass Island Music Festival Band Competition. Be as creative as you like, but we want you to include your band name, where you are from and mention us too!

A panel will choose 8 bands to compete in the first round from your video submissions. Competition will be held in person at 10:00am on Thursday, October 17th, at The Indoor Theater at Roanoke Island Festival Park in Manteo, NC before a live audience. Seating is limited to 242 seats and will be first come first serve.

Judges will be a panel of industry experts and touring musicians. After all bands perform, 3 of the 8 bands will be chosen by the judges to compete in the final round. Winners will be chosen on a points system based on song selection, vocals, musicianship, and stage presence.

**PRIZE PACKAGE - The winning band will be announced Thursday evening from the main stage and receive the following:**

* 2025 Bluegrass Island Music Festival guaranteed booking worth $2500 plus up to 3 rooms lodging
* Studio time at Mountain Fever Records
* 1 year advertising and event booking with Bluegrass RoadTrip
* Complimentary 2024 three-day general admission pass to the festival for each band member who performs in the competition
* Band name listed on the Bluegrass Island Music Festival competition page online
* Winning band will be introduced by Rhonda Vincent and will perform 1 song on the main stage

**RULES and REGULATIONS**

* There is no entry fee for the competition.
* Self-released and self-distributed CDs are allowed however no band member may be signed to a record label.
* The competing band must perform one original tune composed or written by at least one member of the band. At least one of the two submissions must have vocals and harmonies and the other can be instrumental, but not required.
* Each finalist will play two songs in front of the judges and live audience in excess of 200 people (one original song and one standard or traditional bluegrass tune)
* Each finalist will have a maximum of 10 minutes of performance on stage.
* You must provide your own lodging and transportation to and from the Bluegrass Island Music Festival
* The draped stage is 18 inches high by 30 feet across by 17 feet deep and will be set up with a line of vocal and instrument mics specific to each instrument in order to expedite the changeover of bands during the contest. The arrangement will be sent to you before the festival weekend.
* Registration will begin at 9:00AM on the morning of the contest. At least one representative of each band must report to the registration table in the theater to draw for their place in the lineup, review the rules, and ask any questions. All band members must be present and ready to perform at their scheduled time or they will be disqualified. Contestants are required to remain in the theater in the event of a tie. Be prepared to play an additional song if a playoff is required. If both bands are not present, the band present will advance to the next round and the other will be disqualified.
* The top three bands will perform two songs which must be different from those performed during the preliminary round. Winner of the band contest will be announced during the festival Thursday from the Main Stage at Festival Park.
* Bands who have won the contest in previous years or have participated in the festival on any stage are not eligible to enter the band contest. Additionally, any band associated with and/or booked for the 2024 festival is not allowed to participate in the contest. Anyone associated with Hemilright Entertainment may not enter this contest.
* To avoid delays with band setup, all bands must use the microphones provided by the theater.
* A band will consist of at least two, but no more than seven members. Songs, material, and dress must be of an appropriate nature suitable for family entertainment. No band finalist member may participate in more than one band during the competition.
* Any contestant appearing under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be allowed on stage.

**JUDGING GUIDELINES**

* Contestants in the Band Contest will be judged on:  
  • Song Selection (25%) — difficulty, taste, authenticity, and originality.   
  • Musicianship (25%) — rhythm & timing, intonation, and expression  
  • Vocals/Harmonies (25%) — vocal quality for both leads and harmony  
  • Stage Presence (15%) — comfort with and rapport with the audience, entertainment value and confidence.

• Online voting fan favorite (10%) — Band video submission will be posted on www.bluegrassisland.com for fans to vote for their favorite performance. Voting will begin once the 8 participating bands are selected.

* Decisions by the judges will be final and non-negotiable.
* Bands may view their score sheets upon request by contacting the band contest coordinator.
* Judges are encouraged to comment with constructive feedback for band contestants.
* All commercial recording rights are reserved and shall become the property of Hemilright Entertainment.

By signing the registration form, bands acknowledge:

* all commercial recording rights are reserved and shall become the property of Hemilright Entertainment
* acceptance of all rules and regulations and judging guidelines of the Bluegrass Island Music Festival Band Competition.

Submit video entry and any questions to Amelia Ricci at bluegrassroadtrip@gmail.com.